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BERRIEN COUNTY

Group pushes back against gun supporters

Interfaith Action of SW Michigan says county moving too fast on 'Second Amendment Sanctuary' resolution

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Members of Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan are asking Berrien County commissioners to take more time as they consider declaring the county to be a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County," possibly this Thursday.

"We think that this is a bit extreme and that it's happening pretty fast and residents, let alone our community at large, may not even be aware," said Vicki Schroeder of Benton Harbor, who co-leads the gun violence subcommittee of Interfaith Action.

On Jan. 16, Jim Walker of Baroda gave commissioners a resolution that, if passed as presented, would ask the county's sheriff and prosecutor to not enforce "unconstitutional" firearms laws "in the exercise of their sound discretion." After the meeting, Walker said that the resolution is being considered in several Michigan counties to preempt the confiscation of legally possessed firearms.

Schroeder believes the premise behind the resolution is misguided.

"Nobody is saying to take away guns," she said. "... We want common sense laws. And we want bipartisan work on that."

She said her subcommittee has been working for weeks on how to create forums for discussion where all viewpoints are heard and where common ground can be found. Interfaith Action was created almost two years ago to build interfaith collaboration and to bring people together to discuss issues in a respectful way.

The Rev. Karen Joy Kelly of Three Oaks, a member of Interfaith Action, said the type of dialogue needed to solve problems often can't happen at government meetings, where residents are only allowed to speak during the public comments section of the meeting and the elected officials usually don't respond.

"Civil discourse means active listening and being able to articulate the other person's viewpoint and trying to find common ground in which to begin solving the problem respectfully," she said.

Instead, she said many guns rights activists become entrenched

See **GROUP**, page A2

BENTON HARBOR

Commission OKs tax break for developer

City opts for 7-year freeze rather than 10-year exemption

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor city commissioners Monday approved granting a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate for the former All-Phase building at the corner of Riverview Drive and Empire Avenue.

But they balked at freezing the property taxes for the entire 10 years that the developer requested. Instead, they voted to grant the certificate for seven years, with the developer having the option to request the final three years at a later date.

Commissioners approved creating the district in January.

Commissioner Duane Seats said he opposed 10 years because the city needs the additional tax revenue now.

"Ten years is a long time," he said. "If I do an addition to my house, the tax ... assessment is going to go up quite a bit and I'm going to have to pay taxes on that."

Tax Assessor Angela Story said approving the certificate so the property taxes are frozen is an incentive to make projects affordable to developers. After the taxes are abated for the approved number of years, she said the property taxes increase based on how much value is added by the improvements.

"In the long run, it all comes back on and it's taxed," she said.

See **TAX BREAK**, page A2

Fishing in February

John Matuszak / HP staff

Aaron Smith gets ready to cast off along the St. Joseph River in St. Joseph, taking advantage of Monday's mild weather to get in some fishing ahead of the colder temperatures forecast for today and the rest of the week. Smith also took the time to remove debris that had washed up from waves while he was waiting for a bite.

Lawsuit against Freehling, Quattrin to wait on appeals ruling

By JOHN MATUSZAK
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A civil lawsuit against Berrien County Commissioner Teri Freehling and Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin, alleging fraud and conspiracy, will wait on a higher court ruling over immunity for the drain commissioner, Berrien County Judge Dennis Wiley decided Monday.

The request to move the case forward while the Michigan Court of Appeals decides the immunity issue was made by attorney Mark LaRose, representing plaintiff Doug Hartzler, who alleges a scheme to direct county drain projects to Freehling and her late husband, Patrick.

LaRose made his request before Judge Wiley, but attorneys for the defendants were not present. LaRose said he wanted to see the case go forward while the "small matter" of Quattrin's possible immunity from a lawsuit as a government official was decided by the appeals court.

Wiley said the law is clear that the entire case is held up while this issue is considered.

"I have to wait to hear from the folks from above," Wiley told LaRose. "I am just a lower court functionary."

The case involves allegations by Hartzler that he was involved in an effort to steer funds from projects to the Freehlings, which he said was a conflict of interest. Hartzler was awarded contracts through Quattrin's office and he rented equipment from Patrick Freehling, funneling around $400,000 to him over two years.

See **FREEHLING**, page A2

New research confirms meat health risks, clashes with last year's report

By ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

CHICAGO — Eating red and processed meat is linked to higher rates of heart disease and death, says a large new study – a finding that would be met with a big "duh" if it didn't come on the heels of a controversial report suggesting people don't necessarily need to eat less meat.

The new research, published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine, found that eating two servings of red meat or processed meat weekly is associated with a 3 percent to 7 percent higher risk of cardiovascular disease, such as heart attack and stroke, and a 3 percent higher risk of death from all causes.

Eating two servings of poultry weekly was also linked to higher heart disease risk, but not overall mortality, said the study, which was conducted by researchers at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The study's authors urged more research on poultry before making any recommendations on intake because the study didn't look at how the food was prepared, such as grilled or fried.

Fish was not associated with ill health effects.

The findings are consistent with prior research that has linked meat with poor health outcomes, but can feel like whiplash given a report, published in October in the Annals of Internal Medicine, that said there is insufficient evidence to recommend people reduce meat intake. Some public health experts questioned the accuracy of those conclusions and some of the authors were later called out for not disclosing industry funding on other projects.

The report's authors included researchers from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia and McMaster University in Canada, among others.

Such conflicting conclusions can paralyze consumers trying to make healthful choices, erode trust in nutrition science or encourage some people to throw up their hands and indulge in steaks and burgers with abandon.

Norrina Allen, associate professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at Northwestern's medical school, and senior author of the new study, points out that the reports try to answer different questions. Her study examined whether people who eat meat are more likely to get sick and die, whereas the fall report summarized existing literature to

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The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Rush Limbaugh says he's been diagnosed with lung cancer

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Conservative radio host and Republican kingmaker Rush Limbaugh said he's been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer.

Addressing listeners on his program Monday, Limbaugh said will take some days off for further medical tests and to determine treatment.

"I have to tell you something today that I wish I didn't have to tell you," announced Limbaugh, 69. The cancer diagnosis was confirmed by two medical institutions in late January after he experienced his only symptom so far, shortness of breath, on his Jan. 12 birthday weekend, he said.

He was reluctant to discuss personal matters and distract from his work, he said, and wasn't seeking to cover up his illness. He realized it was better to be honest and avoid the speculation that would follow when he has to miss being on air for treatment or as the result of treatment, Limbaugh added.

"But it is what it is. And you know me, I'm the mayor of Realville," he said. "My intention is to come here every day I can. And to do this program as normally" and competently as usual.

He said he considers his listeners to be to be part of a "family type relationship" with him, adding that his job has given him the "greatest satisfaction and happiness" he's experienced.

Limbaugh's announcement come at a tumultuous political time, as the conclusion of President Donald Trump's impeachment trial nears.

"It's shocking to the industry, and it should be shocking to the political establishment," Michael Harrison, publisher of Talkers magazine, the trade industry publication for talk radio, said of Limbaugh's disclosure.

He started his first national radio show in 1988 from New York, later relocating to Palm Beach, Florida.

The hyper-partisan broadcaster has dominated talk radio with a raucous, liberal-bashing style that made him one of the most influential voices of American right-wing politics and inspired other conservative broadcasters including Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly.

"Rush you are in our prayers," Beck tweeted. "We live in a time of modern miracles. Millions are praying you find one."

Limbaugh said he intends to work as much as possible. He also said he had focused more "intensely" in the past two weeks on what he called his "deeply personal relationship" with God.

The media figure's endorsement and friendship is a conservative political treasure. His idol, Ronald Reagan, wrote a letter that Limbaugh read on the air in December 1992 and which sealed his reputation among conservatives: "You've become the number one voice for conservatism in our country," Reagan wrote.

LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
JC-10C-2H-9H-9S
Midday Daily 3
2-7-6
Midday Daily 4
7-7-5-9
Daily 3
0-7-4
Daily 4
5-7-4-9
Fantasy 5
02-10-20-27-38
Keno
03-10-12-14-17-18-20-23-31-34-35-37-40-41-42-44-50-51-53-66-74-79
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $168 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $50 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
02-17-24-30-34
Estimated jackpot: $110,000
Cash4Life
19-22-29-36-60, Cash Ball: 4
Quick Draw Midday
02-03-05-23-27-28-37-40-42-43-45-51-55-58-62-65-68-69-71-73, BE: 65
Daily Three-Midday
8-9-3, SB{&}
Daily Three-Evening
7-6-0, SB: 2
Daily Four-Midday
6-7-3-3, SB{&}
Daily Four-Evening
8-6-8-0, SB: 2
Quick Draw Evening
10-12-18-22-24-26-33-38-41-44-46-47-53-54-55-56-62-63-69-74, BE: 54

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
02-28-29-39-41
Pick Three-Midday
0-2-6, Fireball: 2
Pick Three-Evening
8-1-5, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Midday
7-6-6-5, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
6-2-4-2, Fireball: 2
Lucky Day Lotto
08-28-39-40-45
Estimated jackpot: $250,000

– The Associated Press

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Leadoff Iowa Democratic caucus results delayed

By STEVE PEOPLES, THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE
Associated Press

Charlie Neibergall / AP

Local residents wait to enter an Iowa Democratic caucus at Hoover High School, Monday, in Des Moines, Iowa.

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa Democratic Party said Monday night that results from the state's first-in-the-nation caucus were delayed due to "quality checks" and new reporting rules.

"The integrity of the results is paramount," party spokesperson Mandy McClure said. "We have experienced a delay in the results due to quality checks and the fact that the IDP is reporting out three data sets for the first time."

The statement came as Iowa voters packed caucus sites across the state as Democrats balanced a strong preference for fundamental change with an overwhelming desire to defeat President Donald Trump in the opening contest of the 2020 presidential primary season.

State party officials were counting votes amid reports of strong turnout in some precincts, with at least four leading candidates battling for the chance to take on Trump in November. Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses have been expected to provide some clarity for what has been a muddled nomination fight for much of the last year.

Monday night's vote totals were slow to be counted, and the reason was unclear. Des Moines County Democratic Chair Tom Courtney blamed technology issues in his county, relaying precinct reports that the app created for caucus organizers to report results was "a mess."

As a result, Courtney said precinct leaders were phoning in results to the state party headquarters, which was too busy to answer their calls in some cases.

The caucuses offered the opening test suggesting who and what the party stands for in the turbulent age of Trump. It's just the first in a primary season that will span all 50 states and several U.S. territories, ending only at the party's national convention in mid-July.

One unsurprising development: Trump won the Republican caucus, a largely symbolic victory given that he faced no significant opposition.

MEAT

From page A1

determine if there is enough evidence to show reducing meat intake makes a difference.

Asked for a takeaway, Allen said: "I hope people consider eating red and processed meat in moderation and try and consume more fruits and vegetables and whole grains."

Nearly 30,000 men and women were included in the Northwestern study, which followed participants from six different long-term research cohorts for up to 30 years. It goes a few steps further than prior studies to isolate the effect of meat by controlling for individual risk factors and other aspects of a person's diet, Allen said.

While the increased risk from two weekly servings is small – a serving being, for example, 4 ounces of unprocessed red meat or two strips of bacon – the risk increases the more meat people eat, the study said. The study does not establish causality.

The research has several limitations. A major one was that it was based on a self-assessment of what participants ate over a month at the start of the project, so any changes they made to their diets over the years were not taken into account. Participants were followed for a median of 19 years.

Allen said it's notable that there remained a significant relationship between illness and death and people's diets decades before.

"There is still a risk based on what you ate 20 years ago," she said.

The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association Strategically Focused Research Networks and the Feinberg School of Medicine.

TAX BREAK

From page A1

But if the building continues to sit empty, she said the property taxes will decrease as the building deteriorates.

Commissioner MaryAlice Adams said she welcomes new business to the city.

"That can be a good thing, especially for something that's just sitting dormant, doing nothing and dying," she said.

She said it would be nice to see development happening along Riverview Drive and at Yarbrough Park, which is across the street from the proposed development.

Chicago developer Matt Rogatz previously said he plans to spend about $1.5 million on the building to create a banquet facility that he could open in the summer of 2021.

But on Monday, he didn't mention any numbers.

"It's a valid project, and I'm excited about it, but I'm getting some numbers from an architect that putting in a banquet facility and putting a rooftop deck in is going to be extremely expensive," he said.

He said the structure wasn't built to support 200 people on the roof or for 300 people on the second floor. He said it will also cost money to install an elevator to take people to the roof.

"It's going to take a restructuring of this building, and I'm still trying to decide if I'm even going to do it because now the numbers are crazy," he said. "They're getting really expensive. I love Benton Harbor, but I'm a business guy. If it doesn't make financial sense to me, I'm not going to do it. So, I need help."

Rogatz said that when he initially bought the building in the fall for $150,000, he planned to rent it out for warehouse space, but couldn't find anyone interested in renting it out.

"Am I going to get my investment back? I have no idea. I might lose my shirt here. Serious," he said. "And it could be the biggest mistake of my life, coming here. I'm with this building and I'm committing to doing something with this building. And hopefully, it's going to be something great for this community, not just for people coming into the community, but for the people who live here. ... I'm going to spend money, lots of money, to stabilize it and to make it valuable. It's my goal to take a non-performing asset and make it viable. That's what I do for a living."

Mayor Marcus Muhammad said new developments need to be welcomed into the city so the city's tax base is broadened, lightening the tax load on the residents.

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FREEHLING

From page A1

Teri Freehling voted on some of the contracts and abstained on others. Patrick Freehling died as the result of an accident on their farm in May.

Hartzler also alleges that when he fired a friend of the Freehlings and Quattrin, he no longer was awarded work by the drain office.

Wiley ruled in October that the case could move ahead, in response to a request from the defendants for a summary dismissal, stating that there are facts "that could justify recovery of each of the plaintiffs claims."

Wiley denied Quattrin's request for immunity on the charges of conspiracy, writing that the "alleged conspiratorial acts took place prior to, and separate from, the letting of bids and awarding of contracts," and the allegations "are outside the Defendant Quattrin's authority as Berrien County Drain Commissioner, adding that "concocting conspiratorial schemes is not an enumerated power within the Drain Code."

Wiley did grant Quattrin immunity on the charges of interference with contracts, business and fraud, deciding that it was within the drain commissioner's authority to decide who should and should not be awarded contracts.

Quattrin appealed the ruling on conspiracy charges to the state court in November. Wiley told LaRose that the Court of Appeals had not yet requested the court file.

The Berrien County Board of Commissioners contracted with attorney and retired judge John Dewane to investigate and determine whether Freehling was guilty of a conflict of interest regarding the contracts that benefited her husband's company. He concluded that Freehling did not violate any laws by failing to disclose the business dealings and by not abstaining from some votes, because she did not have a contractual arrangement with the drain office.

He also wrote that while Freehling appears to have had a "passive" knowledge of the contracts, she probably should have known more about her husband's business dealings. Dewane urged commissioners to maintain a higher level of disclosure about possible conflicts in the future.

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic in September declined to charge Teri Freehling with a misdemeanor charge of failing to reveal a conflict of interest.

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GROUP

From page A1

in the idea that if any gun control laws are passed, it will automatically lead to all guns being taken away.

"We've moved into a bullying society – a society with no respect," she said.

Schroeder said her subcommittee is working with the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence to bring to the area "The Gun Show," a thought-provoking play that asks the question, "Can we talk about this?" She said they are planning to have a panel discussion after the play, with the date and time to be announced later.

Gun violence is only one of the topics being explored by Interfaith Action, with other subcommittees looking at social and racial justice.

Schroeder said her subcommittee started doing its work well before county commissioners were presented with the Second Amendment Sanctuary County proposal. She said she is very concerned about what would happen if the county's sheriff and prosecutor are asked to not enforce firearms laws that they consider to be unconstitutional.

"It's baffling that our elected officials are contemplating not upholding federal and state laws," she said.

She said officials ignoring gun laws is already happening.

Last week, armed gun owners were allowed to enter the state capitol building in Kentucky as they protested proposed gun control measures.

"This is the part of not enforcing that is concerning," she said. "The security at that government building did not stop them, did not search them. They let them go around them. That's what concerns us."

Schroeder said that when someone enters a building with an assault rifle, there is no way to know what that person's intentions are.

She said Southwest Michigan attracts a lot of tourists to attend a variety of events.

"We're very nervous about this," she said. "It does not create a safe environment."

Schroeder said that many people and events avoid Second Amendment sanctuary municipalities, which would impact the area economically.

"We just think there's another way to have the conversation about gun violence and gun violence prevention," she said. "We're spending a lot of time on an extremist point of view. The majority of Americans are in the moderate category. And (more than 90) percent of them support background checks to keep guns out of the hands of people that shouldn't have them."

Kelly said conservatives used to advocate for common sense gun control laws. She pointed out that President Ronald Reagan answered a question from a man in 1989, where he talked about California's gun laws, which required a background check before anyone could buy a gun.

"I do not believe in taking away the right of the citizen to own guns for sporting, for hunting, and so forth, or for home defense," Reagan said. "But I do believe that an AK-47, a machine gun, is not a sporting weapon or needed for the defense of the home."

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hp LOCAL & STATE

SJ Township appoints harbor project work group

Other municipalities expected to do the same

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The St. Joseph Township Board on Monday appointed a work group to investigate the best way to create a governing body for the Twin Cities Harbor Revitalization Project.

The project is a joint one between Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and St. Joseph Township, and at a meeting last month, each municipality was tasked with appointing four people to serve on a work group.

St. Joseph Township's group will include Denise Cook, township manager; Dave Vonk, township trustee; Roger Seely, township supervisor; and Keene Taylor, a community member. He is a lifelong resident, a boater, and has been a senior executive banker and a real estate developer and investor. The work group members will not necessarily be the same people who will serve when a governing body is established, trustees noted.

The Twin Cities Harbor Sustainability Initiative was started almost two years ago to look at the best way to stimulate growth along the waterfront. A study of the area was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in partnership with Michigan Sea Grant, Lawrence Technological University, the Harbor Conservancy and other groups.The study looked at 728 acres within a quarter-mile radius of the waterfront and harbors, excluding downtown St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, where separate planning is underway. The resulting vision includes water taxis, underground parking garages, walking trails and retail space.

At the meeting between the three municipalities, it was decided that the work groups for each should be appointed within 30 days, and the work groups should then be given 120 days to study governing models and come up with a recommendation.

Possibilities include forming a joint planning advisory board, a joint planning commission or a harbor authority/agency.

At the St. Joseph Township Board's noon work session Monday, Supervisor Seely said it will be good to have Vonk as a member of the work group because "he knows some of the Benton Harbor commissioners, and it's going to be an uphill battle."

Trustee Ron Griffin said people in Benton Harbor are concerned about being taken advantage of. Those concerns were brought up during the meeting between the three municipalities, he said.

Seely said he is not sure where St. Joseph city officials stand regarding the project. Trustee Ed Meny commented, "St. Joseph is dealing with a lot of other issues right now, such as erosion and infrastructure."

Medic 1 budget

In another matter Monday at its evening meeting, the township board approved a 2020-2021 budget for Medic 1 Ambulance and a 3 percent subsidy increase for the year, from $59,391 to $62,172. Other municipalities are also being asked to approve the increase. Municipalities served by Medic 1 pay subsidies on a per-capita basis.

The Medic 1 budget anticipates revenues totaling $5,575,901 and expenditures

See HARBOR, page A4

ST. JOSEPH TWP.

Don Campbell / HP staff

St. Joseph Township Police Sgt. Mike Lanier, left, and officer Jaramee Peppers have been selected as the township's officers of the year. They were honored Monday at the meeting of the St. Joseph Township Board.

Lanier, Peppers named officers of the year

Their work on Hassel murder stood out, chief says

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Two St. Joseph Township police officers are sharing the honor of each being named Police Officer of the Year for 2019, mainly for their work on a high-profile homicide case.

Sgt. Mike Lanier and Officer Jaramee Peppers were honored at Monday night's meeting of the St. Joseph Township Board.

"It was an extremely challenging year. We started out with a homicide, and these two officers went a step above," Police Chief Randy Leng told the board. "They put in an enormous amount of time and they really shined. We are really lucky to have these two and I'm happy, proud and privileged to present them as your Officers of the Year."

Lanier graduated from the Kalamazoo police academy in 1992. He started his career in Buchanan, then went to work in New Buffalo before joining St. Joseph Township Police Department 18 1/2 years ago. He was promoted to sergeant in April 2019.

Lanier was chosen for officer of the year 2019 mainly due to his work on the Hassel Homicide. U.S. Army Sgt. Tyrone Hassel III was fatally shot late the night of Dec. 31, 2018, outside his father's house in St. Joseph Township where he and his wife, Kemia Hassel, were staying while on leave for the holidays. She and her then-lover, Jeremy Cuellar, were charged with his murder. They were also in the Army and an investigation revealed a plot to kill Tyrone. In a recorded phone call from jail, Kemia told her mother she and Cuellar planned to kill her husband while serving together in Korea.

Lanier was one of the first officers on the scene and spent the next seven months working on the case and helped bring it to a close. Kemia Hassel was convicted by a Berrien County jury of first-degree murder and is serving life

See OFFICERS, page A4

Blue Star Mothers work to get the word out

Group enjoys exposure at chili cookoff

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — When the Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan decided to enter Ice Breaker festival's chili cookoff this past weekend, they had no idea their recipe would end up winning first place in the service club category. But the club earned more than a trophy. It received much-needed exposure.

"Many people don't even know about our organization," said Becky Bacchus, Blue Star Mothers' vice president. "We want to get the word out about who we are and what we do."

The chapter did just that Feb. 1 when they set up their chili booth at American Legion Post 49. While serving up samples of chili with blue candy stars on top, the Blue Star Mothers also put together informational displays about the work they do to help men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Photo provided

Volunteers are shown this past November assembling care packages for U.S. military troops serving overseas. The packaging event was part of "Operation: Holiday Cheer," organized by the Blue Star Mothers Southwest Michigan chapter. It's just one of the projects Blue Star Mothers get involved in to assist U.S. military personnel and their families.

Ice Breaker's chili cook-off seemed like the perfect opportunity for the Southwest Michigan chapter to not only promote itself, but to celebrate Blue Star Mothers Day, a day which signifies the national organization's 78th anniversary.

The Southwest Michigan chapter is one of 198 such organizations in the United States, including two in Berrien County: The Charles Baldwin II Stevensville chapter and the We Honor Their Sacrifice chapter in Buchanan. All of the Blue Star Mothers chapters represent thousands of military families throughout the country by providing support to active duty military personnel, promoting patriotism, assisting veterans

See BLUE STAR, page A4

BERRIEN SPRINGS

County board chairman updates village

Elliott says word 'sanctuary' is problematic in gun resolution

By DEBRA HAIGHT
HP Correspondent

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Berrien County Board Chairman Mac Elliott gave a preview of this week's county board meeting at Monday night's Berrien Springs Village Council meeting.

Elliott reported primarily on the citizen effort to have Berrien County be a Second Amendment Sanctuary County and the vote that is expected at Thursday's county board meeting. "Some counties have done it, others have declined but reaffirmed their oaths in support of the Michigan and U.S. constitutions," he said.

"Some folks came in on the 23rd and asked us to make the county a sanctuary county," he said. "I expressed some concern about the word 'sanctuary.' It doesn't mean a park or a game preserve and it has come to mean a safe haven for those in the country illegally. I said it was problematic."

"It seems to have come from what's going on in Virginia where they have made moves to place restrictions on gun ownership," he added. "There's nothing like that in Michigan."

"My inclination is to pass a resolution affirming the oath we took to uphold the Constitution. I don't think it's advisable to use the word sanctuary. I don't know if we can substitute anything and call it affirmative support for the Second Amendment."

Elliott and village council members also talked about calls they've received from outside organizations about taking in refugee children. Village President Milt Richter said he had received calls from people in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo about the issue.

"We're not big enough to support that and we said we're not going to do that. We have to use our resources carefully," he said. Trustee Lonna Johnson noted that the current foster family system has all it can do to support U.S. children."

Elliott said the county had received similar requests and given a similar response that the county didn't have the

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BARODA

Baroda revises minutes of January meeting

Trustee objected to certain language

By WILLIAM F. AST III
HP Correspondent

BARODA — Baroda Village Council Trustee Mike Price on Monday succeeded in removing part of the minutes of the council's Jan. 6 meeting.

Price, taken off the council's Personnel Committee by President Bob Getz at that meeting, objected to the minutes saying he had a conflict of interest because his wife, Christina, is Baroda Township clerk. The Jan. 6 minutes stated Price was removed "due to a conflict of interest, as his wife is Baroda Township Clerk and information is being relayed between them."

"It's inaccurate," Price said. "… She's been to every meeting I've been to, so what was I relaying?"

"Did it happen or didn't it?" Trustee Don Turney asked the council.

"There's a lot of conflict," Clerk Tina Martin replied.

The vote on Price's motion was unclear to audience members, but Martin after the meeting said it passed by a 2-1 vote.

Voting in favor were Price and Trustee Leonard Krone. Martin said Getz was opposed, and Turney and Trustee Larry Nye did not vote.

Getz at the Jan. 6 meeting said the Prices had charged him with violating the Michigan Open Meetings Act by taking council votes by phone, and spending money illegally. Getz said he had consulted with the village's lawyer before taking any actions.

Toward the end of Monday's meeting, Baroda resident Brad Mattner said he was making a Freedom of Information Act request to see the "unaltered minutes" of the Jan. 6 meeting. "I'm just curious as to what the whole situation is," he said after Monday's meeting.

Also Monday, the council agreed to support the Village of Clinton in its objections to being required to replace water lines on private property.

"We've got to draw the line somewhere," Krone said.

A letter from Clinton Village Council President Doris Kemmer and Village Manager Kevin Comish said new state lead and copper

See BARODA, page A4

LMC offers classes for first responders

By HP STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College's Criminal Justice Program will offer several new non-credit classes and workshops this spring for police and corrections officers and first responders.

Classes will include Proactive Threat Recognition, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 24, $99; Court Security and Prisoner Transport, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 20, $75; Report Writing and Courtroom Testimony, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 21, $99; Games Inmates Play and Correctional Influence, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 23, $75; Fundamentals of Death Scene Investigations, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 4, $99.

All classes will be in LMC's Todd Center.

In the Proactive Threat Recognition class, taught by Jeff Johnson, students will learn how the human brain assesses threats and reacts to them. They will gain the knowledge and skills needed to proactively respond to pre-assault indicators.

The Court Security and Prisoner Transport class, taught by Todd Gilchrist, will help prepare officers working in courtrooms for prisoner outbursts and family and victim attacks on defendants. It will cover preparing prisoners for movement and transport outside of a secured facility and prisoner transportation security issues. Topics covered will include courthouse security, courtroom security, judicial protection and threat management.

Without proper guidance, practice and training, poor report writing can lead to criminal cases being lost. And courtroom testimony requires thoughtful preparation. The Report Writing and Courtroom Testimony class, taught by Todd Gilchrist, will use information from an investigative written report that the student completes to "mock" courtroom testimony in class.

The Games Inmates Play and Correctional Influence class will explore some of the tactics used by inmates and will educate officers in the dangers of falling victim to manipulation. Students will explore a new management style known as correction influence, in which officers shift away from a totalitarian environment to positive influential environment. Todd Gilchrist is the instructor.

In Fundamentals of Death Scene Investigations, taught by Jeff Johnson, students will learn about the processes the human body goes through after death and the indicators that can point towards a suspicious death or disturbance of a death scene.

To learn more about the college's Criminal Justice Program visit lakemichigancollege.edu/criminal-justice.

To register for these classes and other community education offerings, visit lakemichigancollege.edu/ce, or contact Jennifer Clark at 927-8967 or jclark@lakemichigancollege.edu.

Michigan cities struggle to fill city manager jobs: Here's why

By BILL LAITNER
Detroit Free Press

City managers are everybody's boss.

They're at all the ribbon-cuttings, their names are in bronze on new buildings and they've got the biggest office at city hall.

They're on top, yet never sure how long they'll last – because city managers serve at the will and whim of council members and mayors.

Take Clawson.

In mid–January, the Clawson City Council accepted its second resignation of a city manager in 14 months. In both instances, managers were pushed to resign by council members in lieu of being fired. Now, Clawson must start another search for a new manager. But not quite yet.

The city's head hunter, Amy Cell of Amy Cell Talent in Ypsilanti, told Clawson officials to put off the search to avoid competing with at least half a dozen other cities around Detroit seeking city managers. Such openings can pop up without warning, if an election brings new officials seeking their own civic CEO, as occurred in Clawson.

Still, there are more openings than usual, Cell said.

"I do think there's a contentious atmosphere in politics right now that contributes to this turnover – we're seeing a lot of short tenures," she said.

Among Detroit-area cities seeking managers in January were Grosse Pointe Shores, Howell, Mt. Clemens and Royal Oak.

Aside from political contention, there's a deeper reason: Southeast Michigan is a tough market for wooing city hall bosses. That's what they are – full-time, professional bosses, steeped in budgeting, labor relations, urban planning and people skills, answering only to the part–time politicians on city councils.

Not every city has one, only those with part–time mayors. Full–time mayors, like those in Detroit, Pontiac, Rochester Hills, Warren and Westland, must run for office, then run the city. But experts say cities with city managers usually benefit, in part because the role separates politics from running a city. Right now, the full-time politician who's mayor of Atlantic City, New Jersey, is fighting a move by reformers saying the blighted, crime-ridden resort town should switch to a city-manager government.

The benefits are well-known. And when the seat is vacant, it holds a city back. That's why Michigan's shortage is a worry, although it's not new. But now, it's spreading nationwide.

Top jobs go begging

Michigan has long been a tough sell for job seekers at city halls because the state's tax system puts brick walls in front of anyone trying to balance a local government budget, say executive recruiters. So the same jobs are more appealing in other states. The same budget–busting hurdles scare off mid-level managers too, such as budget directors and deputy managers, the recruiters say.

For entirely different reasons, Michigan's shortage threatens to spread, according to national experts. The economy's boom in private sector hiring is luring away countless young professionals, the millennials who might've opted for government careers. That sets up an ominous timeline for replacing future openings at the top of local governments. In years to come, there may be too few strong hires rising through the ranks.

Meanwhile, another trend is opening up top positions right and left.

Baby Boomers in all sorts of key public–sector jobs – from police chiefs and commanders to city engineers, IT workers and equipment operators – clung to their government jobs during the Great Recession, spooked about retiring while their friends and children were jobless, and committed to steering their battered ships through the storm. But in recent years, they've been retiring in droves, according to a 2019 survey conducted by the Washington, D.C.–based Center for State & Local Government Excellence.

The result? Three things: With so many openings, local governments are hiring less than ideal candidates, some towns and townships are operating with vacancies in key positions, and the pressure is on to raise salaries so that public–sector jobs can be competitive with soaring private–sector offers, experts say.

The worrisome trends are acute in Michigan. Across the state, city manager positions once were coveted, said Tony Minghine, deputy director and chief operating officer of the Michigan Municipal League, a coalition of hundreds of Michigan cities and villages. Among its many services to member cities and villages, the League operates the state's most prominent executive search service for municipal employers.

The job of city manager in metro Detroit typically pays about $100,000 – and in larger cities, considerably more – along with good benefits. So for each opening, applications pour in. But finding job seekers who are qualified is the catch, Minghine said, "Michigan doesn't attract many out–of–state applicants. Why not?"

BLUE STAR

From page A3

organizations and assisting in homeland volunteer efforts.

Although the Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan provides services to the whole region, it focuses most of its attention on Van Buren County and the Battle Creek Veterans Administration Medical Center.

"We're very involved with the Battle Creek Veterans Administration," said Laura DeRoo, president of the group. "They find out what needs there are and we provide help."

One of the Blue Star Mothers' biggest projects occurs annually when it organizes "Operation: Holiday Cheer."

"We ship boxes – huge boxes – of food and other items to service men and women," DeRoo said.

This past November, the chapter and volunteers from throughout the Paw Paw area packed and shipped 134 care packages, each one weighing 25 pounds.

"We have terrific community support," DeRoo said.

But most of the group's support has been limited to the eastern part of the county where the chapter is based.

Bacchus, who lives in South Haven, hopes to promote the group's mission and attract more members from the county's west side.

State Rep. Beth Griffin, R-Mattawan, said she supports the Blue Star Mothers' mission. Griffin attended Saturday's chili cookoff and bought cookies the group had made to sell at the event. "I will be sharing them with my colleagues to highlight and honor the Blue Star Mothers' efforts as they support our military families," Griffin said.

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Photo provided

As part of the 78th anniversary of the Blue Star Mothers of America, on Saturday the Southwest Michigan chapter sold homemade, star-shaped sugar cookies as a fundraiser during the South Haven Ice Breaker Festival's chili cookoff.

Although Feb. 1 is commonly referred to as Blue Star Mothers Day, legislation at both the state and federal government levels has been introduced to formally recognize Feb. 1 as an annual day to honor the organization and its members.

"In Michigan, resolutions have typically been passed annually to recognize Feb. 1 as Blue Star Mothers Day, said Kaylee Tegethoff, legislative aide for Griffin. "Currently, there are two pieces of legislation, Senate Bill 119 and House Bill 5262, which would formally designate Feb. 1 of each year as Blue Star Mothers Day. Both of these bills have been referred to committees but have not yet been passed."

At the federal level, the U.S. Senate last November passed a resolution designating Feb. 1 of this year as "Blue Star Mothers Day." U.S. Reps. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, and Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn, introduced a similar resolution in the House of Representatives in January.

Blue Star Mothers of America formed in Flint in 1942 by Capt. George H. Maines. The group's name was derived from the service flag banners families of servicemen would hang in the window of their homes. A blue star designated living servicemen, while a gold star signified whose who had lost their lives.

Maintenance man dies unexpectedly at SJHS

A member of the maintenance staff at St. Joseph Public Schools died unexpectedly on Monday, according to an email that school officials sent out Monday to families in the district.

The employee was Joe Jones. The email noted that Jones died while working at the high school from a health-related issue. "Joe was one of our most passionate and dedicated staff members and will be greatly missed," the email stated.

The news comes on the heels of the death of Anthony "Tony" Hoffman, 57, a longtime member of the maintenance staff for the district. Hoffman died Jan. 16 at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph, after battling an illness.

HARBOR

From page A3

of $5,489,827.

Highlights in the budget include the purchase of two 2019 ambulances and one 2019 wheelchair van, a 3 percent pay increase for employees, the 3 percent increase in subsidies and a 3 percent increase in rates charged to patients.

Meny, who represents St. Joseph Township on the Medic 1 Board, said training has been enhanced and is attracting new student employees, and employee retention is improving.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, twitter@hpswidwa

OFFICERS

From page A3

in prison without parole. Cuellar pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to a long prison term that is likely to mean life. While working on the homicide, Lanier also had to work his normal shifts, and, being an evidence technician, was also called in numerous times to process other crime scenes, according to Leng.

Lanier also coaches kids in various sports and took part in community events the township police were involved in during 2019.

"His dedication and passion for the job is a big asset to the residents of St. Joseph Charter Township," Leng said.

Peppers graduated from West Shore Community College in 1999. He started his career in South Haven, then worked for Bangor and Benton Harbor before coming to St. Joseph Township in 2010.

Leng said Peppers was also chosen for officer of the year 2019 mainly due to his work on the Hassel homicide. He was also one of the initial officers on the scene and worked the case for seven months. He was instrumental in bringing it to a close, Leng said.

While working on the homicide he also had to work his normal shifts. Peppers also coaches some of his kids' sports and he too lends a hand in the police department's community events, according to the chief.

"He also has a dedication and passion for the job that makes him the fine officer that he is and a valuable asset to the police department and the St. Joseph Charter Township community," Leng said.

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BARODA

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rules "require General Law Villages to replace lines on private property." That requirement violates both the General Law Village Charter and the Michigan Constitution, the letter claimed.

The letter asked for support from other General Law Villages, as well as commitments to contribute $1,000 or more to fight the new rules. The Baroda council did not vote to make any contribution.

In other matters, the council agreed to buy a security system for the village office from Midwest Security Systems. The system will allow those in the office to quickly lock the door if they perceive a threat, and make a video recording of those who come to the office.

The system cost $489. Office personnel at past meetings said a few customers have been unruly and possibly threatening.

Trustee Steve Jasper has resigned from the council effective Jan. 8, due to what he called "other obligations" in a letter to the council. The council voted to accept his resignation, and Getz said he will post a request for a replacement to fill the remainder of Jasper's term on the village's web site.

Martin said Jasper joined the council in 2011.

The council also discussed the idea of getting some sort of statue or memorial honoring the old Baroda High School.

"It isn't a cheap undertaking," said Nye, who was a junior at Baroda High School just before it closed to consolidate with Lakeshore Public Schools.

But the village has a donation from a now-defunct Baroda alumni group, and Nye said he hopes to raise interest in the memorial idea.

Nye graduated from Lakeshore in 1958, in Lakeshore's first graduating class.

VILLAGE

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means to do it.

He also gave a brief update on issues facing the county in coming months. He noted that the county board not only has to find a new county administrator, but also a new 911 administrator with the retirement of Dave Agens and a new public defender.

Elliott wasn't the only county official at Monday's meeting. Community Development Director Dan Fette spoke about the refinancing of the village's 2009-10 water-sewer infrastructure bond. That bond was for $3.1 million for 20 years to pay for water and sewer improvements in the downtown.

Fette said that the county and the village can refinance those bonds to take advantage of current low interest rates. He said the county will take out new 10-year bonds at a lower interest rate which will save the village between $11,000 and $13,000 annually for the next 10 years. He expects interest rates for new bonds to come in between 1.7 and 2.2 percent.

Council members voted on two measures which will now be presented to the county for their approval. They approved a resolution to authorize the amending of the village's contract with the county funding the infrastructure improvements as well as one authorizing the refunding of the bonds.

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Trump speech to project optimism at time of bitter division

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Standing before lawmakers in the grand-domed Capitol where his impeachment trial is still underway, President Donald Trump on Tuesday night will declare the state of the union strong, even when it is bitterly divided as he asks Americans for a second term.

After becoming just the third president in U.S. history to be impeached, Trump will try to move forward, aides say, offering an optimistic message that stresses economic growth in his annual address before Congress.

But the impeachment drama will hang over him as he stands before the very lawmakers who have voted to remove him from office – and those who are expected to acquit him Wednesday when the Senate trial comes to a close. Any attempt to try to be a messenger for unity will surely be dismissed at a time of palpable anger and rancor, much of which he has helped generate on both sides of the divide.

Senior administration officials were tight-lipped about the extent to which Trump would mention his impeachment, which he has denounced as a "witch hunt" orchestrated by Democrats to try to undo the results of the 2016 election and harm his reelection chances this November. They stressed this his prime-time speech was still a work in progress.

But they said Trump sees the speech as an opportunity to talk about moving the country ahead, contrast his vision with Democrats' and try to make the case to voters that he deserves four more years in the White House.

"We're really looking to giving a very, very positive message," Trump told reporters Sunday during a Super Bowl watch party.

"This has been a very partisan process and this is an opportunity for him to unify the country around opportunities for all Americans," added White House spokeswoman Jessica Ditto.

Trump will spend much of the speech highlighting the economy's strength, including the low employment rate, stressing how it has helped blue-collar workers and the middle class. A focus will be the new trade agreements he has negotiated, including his phase-one deal with China and the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement he signed last week.

It's a familiar message to anyone who has ever tuned into one of the president's rallies. But it's one the White House believes will reach a broader audience and have a more potent impact given the venue, especially among independent voters. His campaign has been courting these voters as it works to stitch together a winning coalition for his reelection.

"Once again, it will present that opportunity for the American people to see how much has been done that not necessarily has been showcased," said Ditto. "This is one of the president's best opportunities to talk about his record unfiltered with a captive audience."

The speech will include a section on health care. Aides say Trump is expected to go after what one official described as the "radical proposals being floated on the left," including the call by some Democratic presidential candidates for "Medicare for All." He will highlight efforts to reduce drug prices, end surprise medical billing and tackle the opioid epidemic, urging members of Congress to pass legislation to back his efforts.

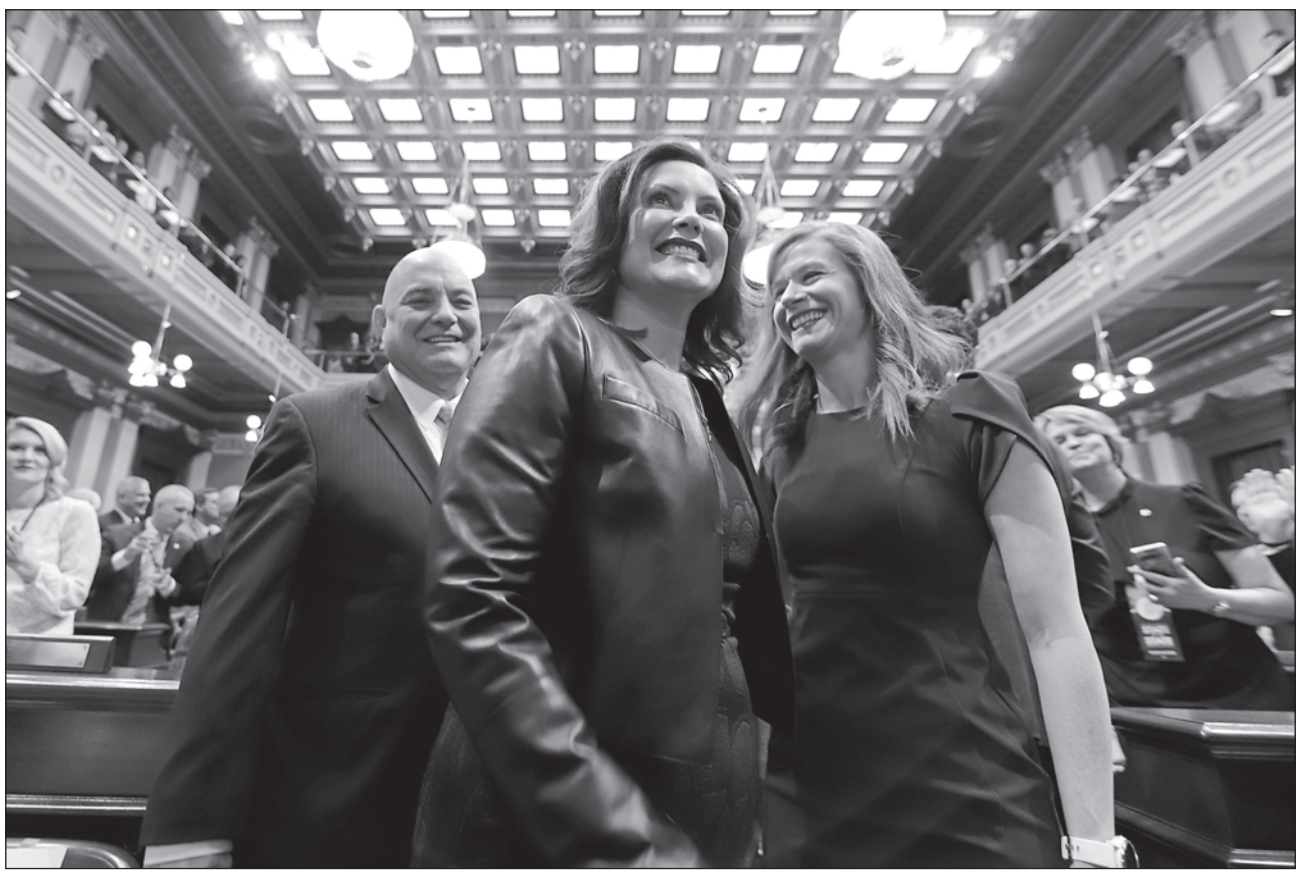
Trump promised voters in 2016 that he would offer a health plan that was better and cheaper than President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, which his administration has tried to gut. Trump has yet to offer any detailed alternative.

While the White House said the president will have message of unity, he will also spend time on issues that have created great division and resonated with his political base. He will again highlight his signature issue – immigration – trumpeting the miles of border wall that have been constructed. He will once again excoriate "sanctuary cities" as dangerous criminal havens.

He will again dedicate a section to "American values," discussing efforts to protect "religious liberties" and limit access to abortions as he continues to court the evangelical and conservative Christian voters who form a crucial part of his base.

Andrew Harnik / AP / AP

President Donald Trump delivers his 2019 State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, as Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., watch.



Al Goldis / AP

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, center, is escorted by state Rep. Frank Liberati, left, and state Sen. Mallory McMorrow before delivering her State of the State address to a joint session of the House and Senate, on Wednesday, at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing.

Michigan governor to take national stage to rebut Trump

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Democrats are putting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan on the national stage Tuesday to rebut President Donald Trump, elevating a fresh face and casting an election-year spotlight on a swing state in the Midwest as the party looks to win back states Trump narrowly captured.

The 48-year-old's ascendance comes as Democrats hope to solidify gains with female voters and as two men in their late 70s, former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, lead national primary polls. Her selection has led to increased speculation that she could be a running mate pick, though she said she is not interested.

Whitmer, who rarely mentions Trump, has advised Democratic presidential candidates that Michigan voters are less focused on his Twitter feed than on the "fundamentals" such as fixing deteriorating roads and helping train people for better-paying jobs. She will return to that theme in her 10-minute response to Trump's State of the Union address, which she will deliver at East Lansing High School – where her two daughters are enrolled.

"These are the fundamentals that people in America are concerned about," Whitmer told The Associated Press, adding that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "thought I would have a message that would resonate."

Democratic strategist Adrienne Elrod, a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, said "it's hard to imagine a better person" to counter Trump.

"Not only did she win the governorship by a wide margin in a key battleground state we lost in 2016 and need to win in 2020, but she is a strong moderate female voice – the perfect contrast to President Trump," she said.

In high school, Whitmer wanted to be an ESPN broadcaster but switched course after an internship at the state Capitol while attending nearby Michigan State University. She went to law school and, after working as an attorney, won a state House seat in East Lansing.

Whitmer said she will talk about that "incredibly hard time" because it shaped her more than any other. She was caring for her mom, who died months after Whitmer gave birth to the first of two daughters. She also was serving as a freshman lawmaker and battling a health insurer over covering her mother's chemotherapy.

She later became the first woman to lead a state Senate caucus and was an outspoken advocate for women before the 2017 Women's Marches and #MeToo era, publicly disclosing during a 2013 legislative debate on health insurance coverage for abortions that she had been raped in college.

After leaving the Legislature due to term limits, Whitmer was appointed to temporarily lead the local prosecutor's office. She launched her campaign for governor days after the stint ended.

She ran as a pragmatic liberal "fighter," emphasizing her bipartisan work to expand Medicaid. Her primary opponents – including one endorsed by Sanders – criticized her for not backing "Medicare for All." She more recently said she supports it "in concept."

Her dad led a state department under a moderate Republican governor before later leading the large health insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Her mom, a Democrat, was an assistant state attorney general.

"I think she has some strength in the middle," said Dan Loepp, a friend of Whitmer's who first met her more than 25 years ago when he was a top legislative aide and she was a staffer. Now the president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield – following Whitmer's father – Loepp called Whitmer a "reasonable progressive" – someone whom national Democratic leaders that he knows see as articulate, smart and deliberate.

She won all 83 counties in the primary. Her nearly 10-percentage point victory over Trump-backed Republican Bill Schuette in the general election was the largest for a non-incumbent Democratic gubernatorial nominee in MIchigan in 86 years.

Michigan's independent voters were more likely to support Whitmer than Schuette, 53 percent to 36 percent, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the AP. Ten percent of Republican voters backed Whitmer, more than the 2 percent of Democratic voters who supported Schuette. The Kaiser Family Foundation and Cook Political Report's fall survey said 59 percent of Michigan's registered voters approved of the job Whitmer was doing, while 39 percent disapproved.

Multiple political strategists said Whitmer could climb vice presidential lists given Michigan's importance, her ability to communicate on TV and social media, and her Midwestern background. Whitmer told the AP she is not seeking the job.

"I have never been drawn to Washington, D.C.," she said. "My family's here in Michigan. I love this state and I feel really lucky to have the opportunity to serve as the governor. I'm not looking to join a ticket. But I do want to be a constructive part of making sure I've got a great partner in the White House."

Since taking office, Whitmer has had ups and downs.

She signed GOP-sponsored legislation to reduce high car insurance premiums. But her call for a 45-cents-a-gallon fuel tax hike to fix roads flopped, leading to a protracted budget impasse. The deal-making chops she had run on were dealt a blow. This past week, she said she was "done waiting," bypassed legislators and announced Michigan will borrow $3.5 billion to rebuild aging state roads and bridges.

On Tuesday she will be filling a role that for others has proved thankless. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's lunge for a water bottle became a meme after he delivered the GOP response in 2013.

"When Speaker Pelosi calls and asks you to do something, you prepare to say yes," Whitmer said. "The message was pretty clear. She thinks Michigan's really important."

John Sellek, who advised Schuette's losing campaign against Whitmer, said while most State of the Union responses are forgettable, this one also has the feeling of an audition.

"National Democrats know their voters are tiring from the endless slog of the primaries, so their goal here is to give these people a fresh face and a general election message that reminds them they will soon have a nominee and turn the fight to Trump instead of each other," Sellek said.

Trump trial closing arguments aim at voters, history

By LISA MASCARO and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Closing arguments Monday in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial were directed more toward history than to sway the outcome, one final chance to influence public opinion and set the record ahead of his expected acquittal in the Republican-led Senate.

The House Democratic prosecutors drew on the Founding Fathers and common sense to urge senators – and Americans – to see that Trump's actions are not isolated but a pattern of behavior that, left unchecked, will allow him to "cheat"' in the 2020 election.

Democrat Rep. Adam Schiff implored those few Republican senators who have acknowledged Trump's wrongdoing in the Ukraine matter to prevent a "runaway presidency" and stand up to say "enough."

"For a man like Donald J. Trump, they gave you a remedy and meant for you to use it. They gave you an oath, and they meant for you to observe it," Schiff said. "We have proven Donald Trump guilty. Now do impartial justice and convict him."

The president's defense countered the Democrats have been out to impeach Trump since the start of his presidency, nothing short of an effort to undo the 2016 election and to try to shape the next one, as early primary voting begins Monday in Iowa.

"Leave it to the voters to choose," said White House counsel Pat Cipollone.

He called for an end to the partisan "era of impeachment."

All that's left, as the Senate prepares to acquit Trump on charges that he abused power and obstructed Congress, is for Americans to decide now and in the November election, as the third presidential impeachment trial in the nation's history comes to a close.

Most senators acknowledge the House Democratic managers have essentially proven their case. Trump was impeached in December on two charges: that he abused his power like no other president in history when he pushed Ukraine to investigate rival Democrats, and he then obstructed Congress by instructing aides to defy House subpoenas.

But key Republicans have decided the president's actions toward Ukraine do not rise to the level of impeachable offense that warrants the dramatic political upheaval of conviction and removal from office. His acquittal in Wednesday's vote is all but assured.

GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska called the president's actions "shameful and wrong," but in a powerful speech late Monday she also derided the highly partisan process. "I cannot vote to convict," she said.

Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rob Portman of Ohio are among those who acknowledged the inappropriateness of Trump's actions, but said they would not vote to hear more testimony or to convict.

"What message does that send? " asked Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., a House prosecutor. He warned senators that for Trump, the "past is prologue." He urged the Senate to realize its failure to convict will "allow the president's misconduct to stand."

It is unclear if any Republican or Democratic senators sworn to do "impartial justice" will break from party lines. One centrist Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin, W-Va., said he was heavily weighing the vote ahead. He suggested censure may be a bipartisan alternative.

The House Democrats unveiled a striking case centered on Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, running an alternative foreign policy that drew alarm at the highest levels. As part of the "scheme," Trump held up $391 million in U.S. aid from Ukraine, a fragile ally battling Russia, for his personal political gain, they argued. The money was eventually released after Congress intervened.

HOGP

In this image from video, Ken Starr, an attorney for President Donald Trump speaks during closing arguments in the impeachment trial against Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Monday.

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Write for your life

Kathleen Parker

If you're thinking of writing a novel, be sure to write only about your own race and culture. Or else.

The recent controversy over "American Dirt," a book that was first widely acclaimed – before its author became the target of violent threats – reminds us yet again that freedom is fragile and that democratic ideals of tolerance and fairness dangle by a thread.

Author Jeanine Cummins doubtless thought she was acting nobly when she spent five years researching the immigrant border crisis – traveling to Mexico, interviewing immigrants, volunteering at a soup kitchen that serves migrants, and visiting orphanages.

But thanks perhaps to the overindulgence of her publisher (Flatiron) – Cummins reportedly received a seven-figure advance – and a high-profile rollout, Cummins earned the contempt of critics who considered her unworthy of her topic, not because the book wasn't quite good enough (as some critics have noted) but because she wasn't sufficiently Latina. Poor Cummins had only one Latina grandmother. And, get this: Her Irish husband, once an illegal immigrant, wasn't quite underdoggish enough. (Never mind that many Irish immigrants came to America as indentured servants, or that it was common for signs on stores and restaurants and for job listings to say: "No Irish." Or "No Irish Need Apply.")

Once Cummins' genetic shortcomings caught the attention of social media's literati, it was off to the bonfires. Not only was she condemned, prompting her to cancel her book tour in fear for her safety, but a petition was circulated asking Oprah to remove Cummins' novel from her book-club list.

Regardless of the author's relative value to the genre of fiction, it should be obvious that one's DNA does not predict literary talent, insight or even wisdom born of experience.

How dare William Styron write "Sophie's Choice" when he was neither Jewish, a woman nor a Holocaust survivor. A list of authors who have written great books without meeting today's ancestry requirements would fill, well, a library.

Critics have to say something, of course – and, apparently, there's plenty enough to say about "American Dirt" without requiring the author to expectorate into a test-tube. Even Cummins seemed to foreshadow what would come her way when she wrote in her own afterword, "I wished someone slightly browner than me would write it." Had I been her editor, I'd have questioned her grammar – "browner than I" – but not her right to pursue a topic of her choosing.

This is what the threats essentially aimed to do – censor Cummins based on her genetic background. Merely reading the preceding sentence should send chills up one's spine. And seeking to silence or shame her with threats of violence is a scene from some other dystopian novel about a country or time not our own.

Any columnist worth her salt has been the target of hatred countless times, though it's become more frequent in recent years. It's much harder to sustain vitriol through the laborious process of a handwritten letter than it is to vent one's spleen with a few characters that can be read by millions in a nanosecond.

A high-tech mob can be marshalled in moments and next thing you know: A book tour is cancelled; a cartoonist goes into hiding; an artist decides no painting is worth his life. Such conditions put not only freedom at risk but also the creative imperative. Provocative art and literature are doomed in a censorious society, which is why, until now, we've tolerated the worst examples of human creativity in order to protect the best.

The trend of punishing certain folks for expressing unpopular thoughts – or for not meeting standards set by a given special-interest group – has been gaining traction for decades. And I should know. I've abandoned certain issues to avoid the wrath of sensitivity monitors, who are doing their best to eliminate humor.

This isn't to say all things should be said or printed – and I am thankful to my editors (most of the time). But wariness isn't enough against threats of violence. All thinking people should rail against the bullying of self-anointed censors whose methods have no place in a free, democratic society. I may not read it, but I plan to buy Cummins' book in solidarity. It's a small, revolutionary act, but it seems the least one should do.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post. Email: kathleenparker@washpost.com.

The Trump 51 and their challenge to Democrats

E.J. Dionne

The Republican-led Senate has sent a very clear message: President Trump can get away with anything.

Now, only the voters can stop him – and no one is more aware of this than Iowa Democrats, who cast the first votes of 2020 on Monday night. Their desperation to find the right champion against Trump was only intensified by the Republicans' cowardice.

It was painful to watch 51 senators vote away their power to hold the president accountable by rejecting a demand for witnesses and documents in the impeachment trial. The Senate calls itself "the world's greatest deliberative body." Those words will now provoke only derision and sorrowful laughter.

This was no ordinary roll call. It was a direct assault on American democracy and our core freedoms. Whatever the flaws of our system, we could once believe that a president who tried to bring down a political opponent by conspiring with a foreign government – and using American taxpayer dollars in the process – would be punished. The Trump 51 told us that such faith is for suckers.

The moral and intellectual bankruptcy of a party that once crusaded against slavery and led the fight to amend our Constitution to guarantee equal protection under the law was exposed by the tortured rationalizations offered for its capitulation to absolutism.

"If a call like this gets you an impeachment, I would think he would think twice before he did it again," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Where has Alexander been since Jan. 20, 2017? It is, in the true sense of the word, pathetic to pretend that caving in to Trump this time will provide any incentive for him to behave better the next time. The very concept of "think twice before he did it again" is as alien to Trump as the words "I don't care about money" or "It's not all about me."

I confess I overrated Alexander, whom I have long respected. I feel the same sense of naivete about Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who issued an even more astounding non-explanation. "It is sad for me to admit that, as an institution, the Congress has failed," she said.

So is she saying that since the system is shattered, I am free to smash it into even smaller pieces by ensuring that the Senate process is a sham?

There is one thing we need not fear: that the Republican apostles of surrender to Trump (and to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, his coverup sidekick) have set a precedent for their future behavior. On the contrary, we know that they will do exactly the opposite if a Democrat is president.

Sure, Democrats can be partisan, but in the art of the double standard, Republicans are Michelangelos. Hillary Clinton's private server is worthy of subpoena after subpoena, but Trump's risking national security secrets using a private cellphone matters not a whit. Republican-appointed judges must be rushed through at all costs. Judges named by a Democrat (see Merrick Garland) can be rejected without even a hearing.

And Republicans were oh-so-fussy about the propriety of impeachment manager Adam Schiff speaking truth about Trump's vindictive pressure on GOP senators – who clearly got the message – while the president can describe Schiff as "mentally deranged" and "a very sick man" without offending the Republicans' dainty sensibilities.

Thus are the minds of Iowa Democrats more concentrated than ever on who can defeat Trump – and end the GOP Senate dominance.

Former vice president Joe Biden hopes this preoccupation will lift him in the campaign's closing hours. His ability to beat Trump is his calling card. "Character is on the ballot" is his battle cry.

Biden's rivals are no less engaged with the much-derided electability issue. So Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., closed this weekend by insisting that his ability to rally new voters makes him Trump's most formidable foe. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., made the same claim, asserting she is best placed to unify the party.

Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg highlighted his freshness as the antidote to Trumpism. "Every single time that my party has won the White House," he said on ABC's "This Week," "it's been with a candidate who was new to national politics, opening the door to a new generation focused on the future."

After last week, we know with certainty what the alternative future – the one with Trump and his Senate subordinates in power – looks like. Ours will be a government where the strongest rebuke to a lawless president will be: *Could you please, pretty please, possibly consider not doing something like that again?*

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

ANOTHER OPINION

Yet another assault by Saudi crown prince

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, seemingly knows no limits in his quest to quash critical media coverage of the kingdom.

Most famously (infamously, really) was the brazen, brutal kidnapping, killing and dismemberment of dissident and journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was a U.S. resident writing for the Washington Post at the time of his murder. Five Saudis were sentenced to death (likely by beheading) and three to prison, while the man most experts, including the CIA and a U.N. panel, believe was behind the killing rules with impunity.

Now comes the news that even before the Khashoggi killing the crown prince may have been directly involved in hacking the cellphone of Jeff Bezos, the owner of the Washington Post and the founder of Amazon, with the intent to "influence, if not silence" criticism, according to two U.N. human-rights experts. The allegations are relevant to the "ongoing evaluation of claims about the crown prince's involvement" in the Khashoggi case, Agnes Callamard, who led the U.N. analysis of the journalist's killing, said in a statement.

Media freedom organizations have similarly sounded the alarm. The Committee to Protect Journalists, pointing out that Saudi Arabia is the world's third-worst jailer of journalists, echoed the U.N. experts' call for an investigation. And Dokhi Fassihian, executive director of Reporters Without Borders USA, told an editorial writer in an email exchange that her organization is "deeply disturbed" by the hacking allegations. "This, along with the unresolved murder of Jamal Khashoggi, underscores the urgent responsibility of U.S. lawmakers and the international community to rein in the Saudi crown prince and to establish controls over the sale and transfer of surveillance technologies to states that target journalists and dissidents," Fassihian said.

Others, including U.S. business and government officials, are at risk of similar digital intrusions. And that in turn exposes Saudi Arabia to economic and geopolitical risk that might undermine the kingdom's quest to modernize its economy – although not necessarily its society.

If the allegations, which Riyadh denies, prove true, "the crown prince has put at risk his relationships with foreign business, which may well be more cautious, or not want to do business with him," Simon Henderson, director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told an editorial writer.

Disappointingly, President Donald Trump has not agreed with the bipartisan congressional consensus condemning Saudi Arabia for the Khashoggi killing and for its complicity in the war in Yemen, which has devolved into the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

A new administration, Congress or both may challenge that dynamic, however. A Democratic White House "would still probably need and want to work with Saudi Arabia, but it would really be tougher," Henderson said.

It shouldn't take a new president to press the kingdom. Trump should reassess the relationship with the crown prince and join Congress in a concerted effort to hold him accountable.

– Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The good and bad of Joe Biden

Jay Ambrose

Joe Biden is against Medicare for All, and maybe that's enough reason to vote for him. But understand, too, that he wants to both eliminate and raise the capital gains tax, that he leaves sentences dangling without an end and that his disregard for political correctness borders on an impeachable offense.

He's certainly a character, this 77-year-old ex-senator, ex-vice president and third-time candidate for Oval Office occupancy. When he isn't in intense arguments with individual voters, he is convivial to the point of giving many hugs. He mastered gaffes early in his political life, mostly getting by with it, but ran into serious trouble when he campaigned for president in 1988. He committed plagiarism to the extent of even using someone else's biography as his own. Right now, he's at the top of the national polls of Democratic primary candidates but is also a subject of discussion in the impeachment proceedings of President Donald Trump.

Some see no reason this will or should hurt his chances. I think it should. The main case against Trump is that he held up military aid to Ukraine in order to get the country to investigate Biden. When he was vice president, Biden was made point man for Ukrainian affairs. With no noticeable qualifications other than who his father was, Biden's son Hunter was soon being paid $83,000 a month to sit on the board of directors of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company believed to be enmeshed in fraudulent dealings. Biden visited Ukraine and said he would hold up a billion dollars in United States aid if the country did not fire a national prosecutor pledged to further investigate Burisma. The man was fired and the next prosecutor dropped the probe.

Trump says his concern was Burisma's corruption, that most of the aid arrived on time and that there was no Biden investigation, case closed. Prosecuting Democrats say Trump was abusing his power to damage a possible political opponent and that the Obama administration and our Western allies thought this prosecutor was himself corrupt. However, some in the administration expressed deep concerns about Hunter's job, and they should have. Even minus any illegalities, here was a stark conflict of interest.

Biden said he never talked to his son about the job and Hunter Biden says differently, but the worst thing would be not talking. Biden should have told him to quit, to get the heck out of Ukraine, and, if his son refused, he should himself have given up his role as Ukrainian point man. The last thing our government should want is the appearance of such impropriety in matters of national security.

What's working best for Biden is his personality recognition, his centrism, his connection with the highly respected Barack Obama (who does not seem to want him as president) and his solid African-American support. Of course, he once said Obama was the "first mainstream African-American who is articulate, bright and clean," and therein lies a serious fault, a way of talking that either reflects a scary shadow self within or a mind constantly getting unplugged. Capital gains? He mistakenly wants to raise the tax but has allowed his tongue to be misleading. And what do you make of his remarking that "poor kids are just as talented and bright as white kids," something immediately corrected. He meant "as wealthy kids."

Things that especially turn me off: He wants free colleges, an idea that won't work; he wants a $15 minimum wage that will cost more than a million unskilled workers their jobs according to the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office; he has adopted a new, politically advantageous belief that people should pay taxes to pay for abortions that they consider the killing of sacred, innocent human creatures. Some of what I like about him is his willingness to negotiate, his understanding that Medicare for All would be economically ruinous and his hesitancy about the need for a Bernie Sanders socialist revolution. I would be happier if he were principled.

Jay Ambrose is a columnist for Tribune News Service. Email: speaktojay@aol.com.

Alexa, read me a story: Audio content for kids on the rise

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Melanie Musson in Belgrade, Montana, does a lot of driving with her four girls. Juggling a broad age range, 1 to 9, she's forever searching for ways to keep them all entertained without relying entirely on video.

While she still adores paper and tablet books for her kids, Musson said: "I think when they hear without seeing, they have to make up visuals in their heads. That's so good. They have to be engaged and get more out of it."

There are plenty of quality audiobooks, podcasts and music for the young, she noted, but weeding through thousands of selections and jumping from platform to platform is a challenge since audio content has exploded over the last few years.

Dad blogger Balint Horvath in Zurich agreed after trying to make sense of kid options for his 14-month-old daughter.

"I couldn't find any resource that would organize podcasts according to different criteria. Information without proper searchability is like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Horvath, who works as a productivity coach for research and development teams.

Audiobooks and music for kids have been around awhile, but podcasts made for the 3-to-12 set are relatively new, driving more parents to choose one-stop platforms that include all formats.

Demand is "primarily driven by parents who are podcast listeners or audiobook fans,'" said Frannie Ucciferri, associate managing editor for the nonprofit Common Sense Media.

With a huge bump in podcasts overall, the value of audio content for kids hasn't been lost on companies large and small.

Spotify recently launched a new ad-free app, Spotify Kids, as a free extension for premium family subscribers. Not yet available in the U.S., it's packed with singalongs, soundtracks and stories for children as young as 3. A platform called Pinna is among the latest to launch ad-free with a variety of content and ages in mind, at $7.99 a month or $79.99 a year. Others stick to podcasts alone, while Amazon's FreeTime Unlimited allows parents to customize a child's experience to provide the most relevant books, videos, apps and more without ads, starting at $2.99 a month.

Old-school broadcasters are also getting into the act. Boston's WGBH, for instance, widely shares free of cost two of its top podcasts for young people: "Molly of Denali," based on the TV series about a girl in Alaska, and "The Creeping Hour," for ages 8 to 12. More are planned as part of the public affiliate's "ongoing exploration of audio storytelling," said WGBH spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins.

Bonnie Way of Vancouver, British Columbia, has five kids, ranging from 2 to 12, and like Musson, she pulls a lot of travel time with her brood. She reaches for audiobooks to keep them happy, even on short trips, and relies a lot on her local library for free selections.

"Yes, it can be challenging to find books that everyone is happy listening to. My 4-year-old is probably exposed to things that her older sisters wouldn't have heard at that age. We started with short stories like Robert Munsch and 'Curious George,' and moved to longer stories like the 'Chronicles of Narnia,'" she said.

Some of her kids are prone to motion sickness, and listening rather than reading helps, Way said. She sees other benefits as well.

"Audiobooks create a shared experience. We're able to discuss the books after we've listened to them, which has been a lot of fun," she said.

Woman sees missing dog on beer cans promoting shelter dogs

Associated Press

BRADENTON, Fla. — A Florida brewery that recently began placing shelter dogs' faces on beer cans helped reunite a Minnesota woman with her dog, Hazel, who went missing three years ago.

Earlier this month, Motorworks Brewing in Bradenton teamed up with the Manatee County Animal Shelter to turn beer cans into adoption flyers for shelter dogs. Monica Mathis of St. Paul, Minnesota, told KSTP that she couldn't believe it when she spotted Hazel's face on a beer can that had been photographed and posted on social media.

Hazel, a terrier mix, was among the dogs featured on beer cans called "The Four Packs."

Mathis saw the post and something about one dog's eyes caught her attention.

"Oh my gosh that looks like my dog, I think that's my dog," Mathis said. But the featured dog's name was Day Day.

Mathis contacted the shelter, which needed proof that Day Day was in fact Hazel.

"I sent everything I could find – all the pictures so I could stop an adoption process from happening because I could've lost her again," Mathis said.

Mathis said she was living in Iowa when Hazel disappeared in 2017.

"She was on a leash outside and I went to get her and she was gone from our yard," Mathis said. She searched, called shelters, but never found the dog.

She said she has no idea how the dog got to Florida.

Then, a new job took her to Minnesota. Several years went by until she saw the beer can campaign on Jan. 24.

The shelter confirmed that Day Day is Hazel.

"I was amazed, I was crying. An emotional wreck," Mathis said.

Mathis said animal services couldn't immediately find her because the contact information on Hazel's microchip was out of date.

"Keep track of exactly what company you use, make sure your stuff gets updated, especially if your pet goes missing and don't ever give up," Mathis said.

Hans Wohlgefahrt of Manatee County Animal Services, said they saw the photos and vet records, which provided proof Hazel belonged to Mathis.

"This dog was such an important part of her family that she had everything to prove she was her owner," Wohlgefahrt said. "There was really no way we could trace her back to that particular owner. It's a great reminder to people when they do these things to go into their profile and make sure all their contact information is up to date."

The nonprofit Friends of Manatee County Animal Services will cover the cost of transporting Hazel to Minnesota, which Mathis says will be in time to celebrate the dog's seventh birthday.

OBITUARIES

Alada Schnake

May 8, 1945 – Jan. 28, 2020

Alada Schnake, 74, of South Haven passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, at Beaufort Memorial Hospital in Beaufort, S.C.

She was born May 8, 1945, to John P. and Annie N. (Harbin) Darty in Carbon Hill, Ala. She lived in the Bangor and South Haven area. Alada married James D. Schnake on Feb. 8, 1964. They shared 55 years of marriage. Alada was employed at the South Haven Rubber Company for many years. She enjoyed working in her vegetable and flower gardens. She was always in the kitchen cooking or baking something to share with others.

Alada's smile was contagious. If you knew her, you loved Alada. She enjoyed traveling to flea markets and engine shows. She also enjoyed spending time with her family, especially with all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Alada Zantello; grandson, Brandon Zantello; brother, Virgil Darty; and sisters, Virgie Lawson and Betty Obidzinski.

Alada is survived by her husband, James Schnake of South Haven; children, Carole (Dave) Lockard of South Haven, Steven Zantello of Holland, Glen Zantello of Jackson and James (Karen) Schnake of South Haven; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Nellie (Allen) Brinks; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven. Funeral services will follow the visitation at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Alada will be laid to rest in McDowell Cemetery in Casco Township. Contributions may be made in Alada's memory to Caring Circle Hospice at Home, 05055 Blue Star Hwy., South Haven, MI 49090. Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the family's online guest book at www.FilbrandtFFH.com.

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven, 637-0333.

Robert E. Zantello

May 6, 1931 – Feb. 2, 2020

Robert E. Zantello, 88, of Bangor went to be with his Lord and Savior on Feb. 2, 2020, at his home.

Bob was born May 6, 1931, in South Haven, the son of Arthur and Sandra (Corradini) Zantello, and had lived all of his life in the Bangor area. He retired from Bohn Aluminum, was a member of East Arlington Baptist Church and was an avid fisherman and farmer. He loved his family, friends and people.

Surviving are his two sons, Daniel (Kerri) Zantello of South Haven and Doug (Julie) Zantello of Bangor; two daughters-in-law, Norma Zantello and Dawn Zantello; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce, in 2005; two sons, Robert in 1981 and Kerry in 2006; and three brothers, Ralph, Elmer and Art.

The family will meet friends from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Bangor Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, where the funeral will be at noon, with Pastor Glen Cowles officiating. Interment will follow in Arlington Hill Cemetery, Bangor. The family suggests memorials be made to the Caring Circle Hospice or East Arlington Baptist Church. www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Death notices

Vincent R. Catania, 45, of Watervliet died Jan 31, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 468-6000.

William D. "Dave" Mohr, 91, of Benton Harbor died Feb. 1, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Grace L. Neal, 89, of Stevensville died Feb. 1, 2020, in St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Djuana Y. Palmer, 54, of Benton Harbor died Jan. 31, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Patricia L. Peterman, 74, of Paw Paw died Feb. 1, 2020, at home. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Alada Schnake, 74, of South Haven died Jan. 28, 2020, at Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Beaufort, S.C. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

Glenn Allen "G" Williams, 68, of Vandalia died Feb. 2, 2020. Connelly Chapel, Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis, 445-2435.

Robert E. Zantello, 88, of Bangor died Feb. 2, 2020, at home. Bangor Chapel, D.L. Miller Funeral Home, 427-7551.

Grace Lee Neal

Oct. 3, 1930 – Feb. 1, 2020

The best girlfriend; the best mother; the best wife. These were the words that Robert Neal used to describe his lovely wife of 71 years. Grace Lee Neal, 89, of Stevensville, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in St. Joseph.

She was born Oct. 3, 1930, in Hamilton, Ohio, to Lorel and Anna (Schliesman) Hapner.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 210 Church St., St. Joseph. Private interment will be at 11 a.m. Please join us for a luncheon at noon at The Rose Center in St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., or the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Grace was a life-long and very active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. She was also a long-time volunteer at Lakeland Hospital. She and Robert were married Jan. 8, 1949, in Hamilton, Ohio, and welcomed their first child in May of 1950. Grace and Robert added seven more children to their family.

Their children are: Melissa Clapper, William (Marsha) Neal, Barbara Clark (Christine Kaspersazak), Mary (Fred) Zemlick, Nancy (Stan) Evans, Thomas (Cheryl) Neal, Sarah (Paul) Spears and John (Susan) Neal. Her 19 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren will remember and cherish her as a devoted grandmother. Her children will remember her as a woman more than awesome, more than beautiful, more than words could ever describe. She is survived by her sisters, Melody (Jim) Borhrer, Shelia (Dave) Metzcar and Diane Bates; by her brother, Guy (Pamela) Hapner; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara Clark; her sister, Jo Ann Brosius; and her brother, Richard Hapner.

Dog sleuths sniff out crop disease hitting citrus trees

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Dog detectives might be able to help save ailing citrus groves, research published Monday suggests.

Scientists trained dogs to sniff out a crop disease called citrus greening that has hit orange, lemon and grapefruit orchards in Florida, California and Texas. The dogs can detect it weeks to years before it shows up on tree leaves and roots, the researchers report.

"This technology is thousands of years old – the dog's nose," said Timothy Gottwald, a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a co-author of the study. "We've just trained dogs to hunt new prey: the bacteria that causes a very damaging crop disease."

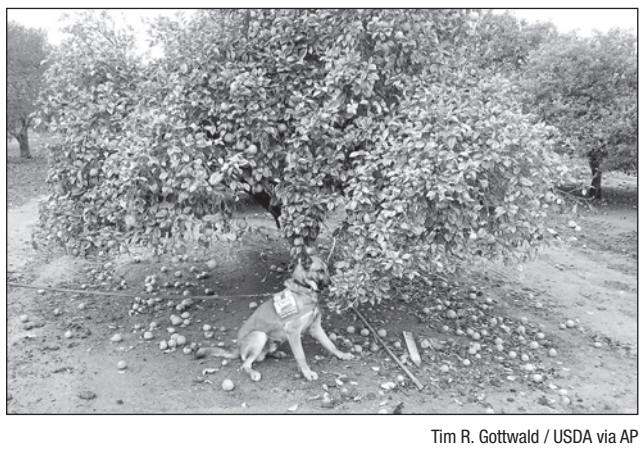
Dog sleuths are also faster, cheaper and more accurate than people collecting hundreds of leaves for lab analysis, according to the study in the Proceedings of National Academies of Sciences. Citrus greening – also called huanglongbing – is caused by a bacteria that is spread by a tiny insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. Once a tree is infected, there's no cure.

The disease has also hurt citrus crops in Central and South America and Asia.

In one experiment in a Texas grapefruit orchard, trained dogs were accurate 95 percent of the time in distinguishing between newly infected trees and healthy ones.

Gavin Poole

Detector canine "Bello" works in a citrus orchard in Texas, in April 2016, searching for citrus greening disease, a bacteria that is spread by a tiny insect that feeds on citrus trees.



Tim R. Gottwald / USDA via AP

Detector canine 'Szaboles' works in a citrus orchard in California in February 2017.

"The earlier you detect a disease, the better chance you have at stopping an epidemic" by culling infected trees, explained Gottwald.

Matteo Garbelotto, who studies plants at the University of California, Berkeley, says the new research elevates the study of dog sleuths in orchards from anecdotal to field-tested, showing that dogs can detect an infection well before current methods. Garbelotto has been involved in similar research but had no role in new study.

Another plant scientist, Laura Sims, of Louisiana Tech University, said she was impressed by the rigorousness of the research. She applauded the steps taken to determine if the dogs were sniffing out the bacteria itself or a plant's response to an infection.

To do that, the researchers infected a variety of unrelated plants with the bacteria in a laboratory. The dogs were still able to pick out the infected plants.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Landmark Center Director Jeannine Wehrenberg is resigning from her position effective March 10 because her family is relocating to Battle Creek.

Wehrenberg served as director of the Landmark in St. Joseph for about a year. The Landmark building, which housed the headquarters of the Fort Miami Heritage Society, was destroyed by fire Dec. 28. The board of directors has chosen not to fill Wehrenberg's post until a new building is found.

35 years ago – 1985

An 11-year-old girl who woke up early this morning to a smoke-filled house alerted her parents, sister and two brothers, and the family escaped the Stevensville home without injury, according to the chief of the Tri-Unit Fire Department.

Brooke, a student at Roosevelt Elementary, smelled the smoke and ran to her parents' room, according to her father. He said the smoke was so bad the family might not have survived if Brooke did not wake up when she did. Fire damage was limited to a bedroom.

50 years ago – 1970

The fourth "Mr. Smorgasbord" restaurant in the Michiana area opened yesterday at Niles and Gard St. in southtown St. Joseph. George Dobslaw of Sawyer is the manager of the new establishment and will be assisted by his wife, Margaret. Hours are 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The other three "Mr. Smorgasbord" restaurants are in Indiana.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2020. There are 331 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Feb. 4, 2004, the social networking website Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway. Walt Disney's animated feature "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened in general U.S. release.

In 1944, the Bronze Star Medal, honoring "heroic or meritorious achievement or service," was authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scattered Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Snow	Scattered Snow	Mostly Cloudy
35°	26°	31° / 21°	32° / 24°	30° / 22°	32° / 24°

Local Outlook

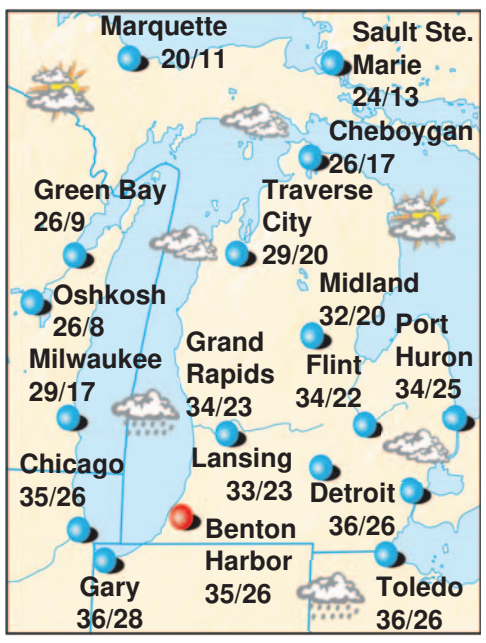
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 55% chance of scattered rain, high temperature of 35°, humidity of 70%. North wind 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. North wind 10 to 16 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 17°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:56 a.m.
Sunset	6:03 p.m.
Moonrise	1:30 p.m.
Moonset	3:45 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
2/9	2/15	2/23	3/2

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	53°R
Low	29°
Normal High	32°
Normal Low	17°
Record High	49° in 2019
Record Low	-5° in 2007

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.02"
Normal for month	0.13"
Year to date	3.88"
Normal Year to date	1.88"

Air Quality

Yesterday 45

Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

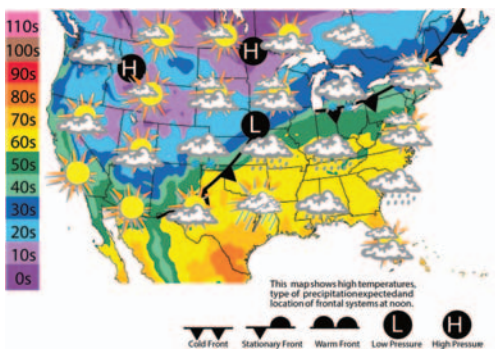
Weather Trivia

Humidity is measured by what device? ?

Answer: A hygrometer.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Feb. 4, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NNE wind 17 to 19 kt. Cloudy. Waves 4 to 6 ft. Water temperature 34 degrees. Tonight, NE wind 12 to 17 kt. A slight chance of snow showers between midnight and 1am.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with highs in the 20s. Northwest wind 10 to 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with highs in the 20s. Southwest wind 2 to 6 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with scattered rain, highs in the 30s. North wind 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with isolated snow, highs in the 20s and 30s. North northeast wind 10 mph.

Illinois mistakenly cancels ex-inmates' voter registrations

By SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The voter registrations of nearly 800 former Illinois inmates may have been mistakenly canceled because of a "data-matching error" between state agencies, the State Board of Elections disclosed Monday.

In Illinois, the voting rights of inmates convicted of crimes are suspended during incarceration but restored upon release, though they have to register again. The error involves people who had completed their sentences, were discharged and had re-registered.

The disclosure came amid multiple unrelated issues with the state's new automatic voter registration, including registering people who opted out and mistakenly registering over 500 people who identified themselves as non-citizens, some of whom voted.

The error with the 774 inmates happened when election officials wrongly categorized a data set from the Corrections Department as people currently incarcerated. Election officials first discovered the error in November, but officials said they didn't know the extent of the problem until recently.

"The Board of Elections and Department of Corrections are committed to ensuring this does not happen again," said a statement Monday.

The Illinois Department of Corrections said in a statement that it "supports the civic engagement of returning citizens" and provides all individuals released from custody with a voter registration application.

The inmates' records were included in roughly 126,000 shared between 2014 and 2019, election officials said. Local election authorities were reviewing the information for potential reinstatement by Thursday, when early voting starts for Illinois' March 17 primary.

Notice for Seniors

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hp SPORTS

Whirlpool CORPORATION

Athlete Spotlight

Contributed photo

St. Joseph's Ayden Moyer has qualified for the state finals in four events this season.

Ayden Moyer:

SJ senior staying focused in the pool

By BEN SPENCER
HP Sports Writer

St. Joseph's Ayden Moyer knew he wanted to make an impact in the pool during his senior season for the Bears' boys swim team.

After a successful first half of the season, Moyer is looking forward to competing at the state level.

Moyer has already hit state qualifying times in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle events, which means he'll swim at the Division 3 state finals on March 13-14 at Oakland University,

He credits that to a more rigorous offseason training regimen.

"I'm just more motivated than ever to do what I want to do," said Moyer. "I just hit my (state) cut in the 50 free, and I've already got my two other cuts. So I'm for sure going to (the state finals). I'm excited for that."

Moyer commonly swims the freestyle events for the Bears. He will typically swim the 100 and 200, and is also a member of the 200 and 400 free relay teams.

Last season, Moyer placed inside of the top 15 in the 100 free with a time of 48.57 at the Division 2 state finals.

He was also a member of the Bears' 200 free relay team, which placed sixth, as well as the 400 free relay, which placed 14th.

"It's been great coaching Ayden," said St. Joseph coach Tim Straub. "He takes anything I throw at him and gives it his all. I know I can count on him at every meet to show up and perform at the top of his game. Being voted one of the captains just shows how much his teammates respect him. He has so much talent and so much love for swimming. I'm looking forward to seeing how he finishes out the season."

Outside of swimming, Moyer is also on the Bears' cross country team, as well as a middle-distance runner on the track team.

He carries a 3.6 GPA in the classroom and plans to attend Michigan State University, where he would like to study civil engineering. He said he would be interested in swimming at the next level if he could.

How do you feel like the season has been going so far?

This year has been going a lot better for me at the beginning. During cross country (season), I usually don't swim to just take that time off and focus on running. This year, instead of just running, I joined (St. Joseph Aquatics), so I was swimming and running at the same time. I had more base entering swimming season, so this year I'm feeling a lot better in the water. I have more yards under my belt.

Of the events that you swim, which is your favorite and why?

I'm a mid-distance runner (on the track). I'm the same in the pool, so I really like the 100. My coach has been pushing me more for the 200, because I kind of have a distance stroke – it's a bit longer than most sprinters. The 200 is probably my best event, but I really like the 100.

What are your goals for your senior season?

At state this year, I'm really hoping to make the final heat. That's my end goal, I just want to be up on the podium and be an all-state swimmer.

What is a typical day of practice look like for you?

I'm pretty motivated, just because I want to do the best I can do. This year I want to pull myself together and do something great, so that's my inspiration. At practice, we're starting now to focus on technique and getting more yards in the pool right before conference. We've been doing some dry land situps and pushups on deck, and then we get in the pool and do 2000 or so yards of warmups. We get out of the pool, stretch and then do our main set, and then we do some kick sets and other small sprint sets usually to finish it up.

How did you first start get into swimming for sport?

I have older brothers who swim, and my whole family has been swimming forever. When I was five they put me in at the (YMCA). It wasn't competitive or anything like that, just to learn to float. When I was eight, my dad wanted me to learn to really swim, so that's when I started at SJA. I was pretty good at at it. I excelled at it, and I had pretty good technique and all that, so it just clicked. I had really good coaching then. I had Keith (Conrad). He was a great guy. He really put my heart into swimming, that's for sure.

Contact: bspencer@TheHP.com, 429-1294, @HPBenSpencer

The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight, sponsored by Whirlpool Corp., appears weekly on Tuesday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. Suggestions for Athlete Spotlight are welcome. Email suggestions to sports@TheHP.com. Athletes are limited to one selection per school year.

After Super Bowl win, Chiefs already eyeing repeat next year

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

David J. Phillip / AP

Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes, left, and Tyrann Mathieu celebrate after defeating the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

MIAMI — It took the Chiefs five full decades to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to Kansas City.

They don't intend to wait that long again.

With confetti still swirling and their thrilling Super Bowl triumph over the San Francisco 49ers mere minutes old, most of the Chiefs were already talking about next season. They got a taste of reaching the AFC title game last season and it drove them to make it back this season, and now that they've had a taste of winning the championship, the organization's mindset is quite simple: Why stop at just one?

"Next year we're coming back," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "We're coming back for a repeat."

There's plenty of reasons to believe they can do it. The Chiefs will return just about every key piece that delivered the city its first championship in 50 years, including Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes, breakout star Damien Williams and the core of their rebuilt defense, along with a coaching staff that's gotten plenty of interest for head coaching jobs elsewhere.

So perhaps it was no surprise that most Las Vegas sports books already have installed the Chiefs as 6-to-1 favorites to win the Super Bowl next season. The Baltimore Ravens and NFC champion Niners were close behind.

"I'm really excited about it. You get one, you want to get another," said Andy Reid, who finally got to bask in his first Super Bowl championship after 21 years of coaching. "But we've got to backpedal a minute and enjoy this one, and then we'll get busy on the next one."

There certainly will be

See **CHIEFS**, page B3

Rugen rules

Ron DeKett / HP correspondent

Michigan Lutheran's Mara Rugen scores a basket on a fast break as Buchanan's Claire Lietz defends during Monday's game.

Michigan Lutheran edges Buchanan behind Mara Rugen's 33 points

By MAXWELL HARDEN
HP Sports Writer

ST. JOSEPH – Michigan Lutheran's Mara Rugen and Buchanan's Alea Fisher put on a show for fans on hand for Monday's Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph Conference crossover game.

Lutheran 55 Buchanan 49

Rugen scored a game-high 33 points and Fisher scored 28 for the Bucks in a 55-49 Michigan Lutheran win that kept the Titans' undefeated season alive.

"This is why we schedule games like this," Michigan Lutheran coach Ron Briney said. "We've had a rivalry with Buchanan for a lot of years. You need to be tested by great teams and great coaches and that certainly happened here tonight."

The two players provided most of the offensive firepower for their teams to start the game, with Rugen scoring 15 of Michigan Lutheran's 24 first-half points and Fisher 19 of Buchanan's 21 points in the first half.

"We've got some great

See **TITANS**, page B2

Rosenbaum helping Titans as coach

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Matt Rosenbaum has been able to contribute to Michigan Lutheran sports in his own way.

Rosenbaum, 19, has Down syndrome and didn't attend the school where his siblings excelled athletically. But he's been able to help as an assistant coach for the junior varsity girls basketball team.

"He never got to be a Titan coming to school here," said Glenn Rosenbaum, Matt's father. "Now he gets to be a Titan. All his brothers and sisters were Titans."

Matt is in his second year as a coach. He encourages the players, helps with drills, and even draws up plays for the Titans. He also hasn't lost a game as coach – the Titans junior varsity has a win streak dating back to 2016.

"Matt does know the game," Michigan Lutheran junior varsity head coach Bret Witkowski said. "He draws up plays and talks to the girls. What he brings up and talks about, it's fairly simple but it's usually dead on."

Matt has attended Blossomland Learning Center since 2011, where he is currently in a program that splits his time between school and

See **ROSENBAUM**, page B2

Matt Rosenbaum is an assistant coach for the Michigan Lutheran girls junior varsity basketball team.

Photo provided

IN BRIEF

Lions sign Garnett, former 1st-round pick of 49ers

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions signed free agent guard Josh Garnett, a former first-round draft pick of the San Francisco 49ers.

The Lions announced the move Monday and did not disclose contract terms.

Garnett was the 28th pick in the 2016 draft out of Stanford. He spent three seasons with the 49ers before being released before the start of this season.

Garnett has appeared in 22 career games, with 11 starts. All of those starts came in his rookie season. Garnett missed the whole 2017 season because of a knee injury and played in seven games in 2018.

Willie Wood, Packers great and Hall of Fame DB, dies at 83

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Willie Wood, the Hall of Fame defensive back who won five NFL championships with the Green Bay Packers under coach Vince Lombardi and made the first interception in Super Bowl history, died Monday. He was 83.

Wood died of natural causes in Washington, according to Robert Schmidt, his longtime friend and former teammate at Southern California.

Wood had suffered from advanced dementia for several years.

After being undrafted out of Southern California, Wood sent postcards to several NFL teams seeking a tryout. The 5-foot-10, 190-pounder signed as a free agent with the Packers and played safety for them from 1960-71.

Kobe tribute game 2nd most watched in ESPN NBA history

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers' first game since Kobe Bryant's death was the second-most watched regular-season NBA game on ESPN.

The game Friday against the Portland Trail Blazers averaged 4.41 million viewers. The only telecast to surpass that since ESPN resumed NBA coverage in 2002-03 was a January 2003 game between the Lakers and Houston Rockets that featured the first matchup between Shaquille O'Neal and Yao Ming (4.88 million).

According to Nielsen, the Bryant pregame ceremony averaged 5.23 million viewers. The audience peaked at 6.07 million between 10:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. Eastern, which was the conclusion of the ceremony and the start of the game.

By comparison, a game between Houston and the Denver Nuggets scheduled during a similar time slot last year averaged 1.6 million.

Red Wings shut out by Flyers 3-0

DETROIT (AP) — Brian Elliott made 16 saves for his 40th career shutout in the Philadelphia Flyers' 3-0 win over the sinking Detroit Red Wings on Monday night.

It was the Red Wings' ninth consecutive loss (0-8-1), and the second straight time they've been shut out. This is their third losing streak of at least eight games in 2019-20.

Scott Laughton, Kevin Hayes and defenseman Matt Niskanen scored for Philadelphia, which has won four of five (4-0-1). It was Elliott's second shutout of the season.

The goals by Hayes and Niskanen were short-handed.

Tight end Vernon Davis retires after 14 NFL seasons

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vernon Davis announced his retirement after 14 NFL seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, Denver Broncos and Washington Redskins that included winning a Super Bowl title.

The 36-year-old said Monday he decided to retire because of the wear and year on his body.

Davis said he's walking away from football while his body is still healthy enough to pursue other opportunities.

Davis was limited to four games during the 2019 season because of a concussion.

AIRWAVES

Television today

7:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Duke at Boston College (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Ohio State at Michigan (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Rutgers at Maryland. (Live) CC
7:30 p.m. (TNT) **NBA Basketball** Milwaukee Bucks at New Orleans Pelicans. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) CC
8:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Penn State at Michigan State. (Live) CC
(NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Chicago Blackhawks at Minnesota Wild. (Live)
9:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Mississippi State at Kentucky. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Oklahoma at Texas Tech. (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Xavier at DePaul. (Live) CC
10:00 p.m. (TNT) **NBA Basketball** San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Lakers. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) CC
11:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Air Force at Nevada. (Live)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Villanova at Butler. (Live) CC
7:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Iowa at Purdue. (Live) CC
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Iowa State at West Virginia. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NBA Basketball** Phoenix Suns at Detroit Pistons. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Golden State Warriors at Brooklyn Nets. (Live)
8:00 p.m. (NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Boston Bruins at Chicago Blackhawks. (Live)
8:30 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Seton Hall at Georgetown. (Live) CC
9:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Wisconsin at Minnesota. (Live) CC
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Wake Forest at Louisville. (Live)
(NBCSCH) **College Basketball** Bradley at Drake. (Live)
10:00 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Denver Nuggets at Utah Jazz. (Live)
11:00 p.m. (Golf) **Golf** LPGA & European Tour: ISPS Handa Vic Open, First Round. (Live)

Radio today

7 p.m.
College basketball — Ohio State at Michigan (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)
8 p.m.
College basketball — Penn State at Michigan State (WCSY-FM, 103.7)

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.
College basketball — Lake Michigan College at at Glen Oaks (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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49ers' great turnaround season pulls up short in Super Bowl

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The San Francisco 49ers' remarkable turnaround ended up just a few minutes shy of a Super Bowl title.

After becoming only the third team to go to the Super Bowl a year after winning four or fewer games, the 49ers stumbled at the end and lost 31-20 to the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night.

"It was a great season," linebacker Fred Warner said. "I can't take anything away from what we've done. To go 4-12 and then go to the Super Bowl and have a chance to win in it, it's one of those things that will hurt for a while. I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure we're better."

The Niners (15-4) were poised to join the 1999 St. Louis Rams as the only teams to win a Super Bowl a year after going 4-12. Instead, they join the 1988 Bengals as a four-win team that came so close to a championship a year later but faltered at the end.

In this same stadium 21 years ago, Joe Montana and San Francisco drove past Cincinnati for the winning score in a 20-16 victory. The collapse for this version of the Niners was on both sides of the ball. The offense fell apart in the fourth quarter and the defense got burned for big plays by Patrick Mahomes that turned a 20-10 lead into a 31-20 loss in the blink of an eye in a crushing loss.

"You could see it in the guys eyes in there. It means something to guys," quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "That means you've got guys that care about what they're doing, guys who care about each other. We're a young team and we've got a very bright future. We've got to take this in stride and remember this feeling and let it fuel us in the offseason."

JIMMY G

Garoppolo's first full season as a starter had ups and downs. He led the team to 13 wins in the regular season with four fourth-quarter comebacks and three games with at least four TD passes. But he also showed a propensity for baffling mistakes. His 18 turnovers in the regular season were the most of any player in the postseason, and then he threw two interceptions in the Super Bowl.

REMARKABLE ROOKIES

A big reason for optimism for the Niners was the play of their top two picks in the 2019 draft. No. 2 overall pick Nick Bosa became a dominant defensive end, makinbg nine sacks in the regular season and four more in the playoffs on the way to winning AP Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Second-round receiver Deebo Samuel showed he has the ability to be a star, excelling as a runner, receiver and blocker. He set a Super Bowl record for receivers with 53 yards rushing against the Chiefs and also had five catches for 39 yards. His physical play sets the tone for the Niners.

BREAKOUT STAR

One of the feel-good stories of the season was the play of running back Raheem Mostert, the former special teams standout who proved he can be a No. 1 back after being cut by six teams. He led the team with 772 yards rushing in the regular season and then had 220 yards and four TDs in the NFC title game against Green Bay.

He ran for 58 yards and a TD in the Super Bowl and should get a chance for more work next season.

FREE AGENCY

The Niners will have some difficult decisions when it comes to free agency this offseason with several key players set to hit the open market next month. The three biggest potential unrestricted free agents are defensive lineman Arik Armstead, who had a breakthrough season with 10 sacks; safety Jimmie Ward, who was a key part of the league's stingiest pass defense; and receiver Emmanuel Sanders, who sparked the passing game after his midseason addition.

San Francisco also can give extensions to key players like tight end George Kittle and defensive tackle DeForest Buckner, which might not leave much money left for other free agents.

Ron DeKett / HP correspondent

Buchanan's Claire Lietz (20) swats the ball away from Michigan Lutheran's Abby Harris during Monday's game.

TITANS

From page B1

shooters and Alea's one of them," Buchanan coach Gabe Miller said. "Tonight was her night; she did a good job of hitting shots. We know what she's capable of doing and her teammates did a great job of finding her."

The game was a back-and-forth affair until midway through the fourth quarter. After a Fisher 3-pointer gave Buchanan a 46-43 lead, Rugen scored the game's next seven points to give the Titans a 50-46 lead.

A Jessi Jewell 3-pointer on the next possession capped a 10-0 run that would seal the win for the Titans.

"Mara just gets things done," Briney said. "She's very quick and has a quick jumper. She plays to win and plays hard. Our bench allowed her to get some rest and did a good job maintaining pressure on defense.

"Jessi made a big shot for us. She's a great shooter; we're trying to get her to be more aggressive on offense. Hopefully, this boosts her confidence."

Michigan Lutheran's frontcourt, led by senior center Clare Berghaus, helped limit Buchanan center Faith Carson's effectiveness in the paint. Carson finished with 12 points, 10 of which came in the second half.

"(Clare) isn't the biggest girl in the world," Briney said. "But she took the bulk of the inside work and did an outstanding job of staying behind (Faith) and trying to rebound with her."

Michigan Lutheran focusing on Carson allowed Fisher to make the most of her open looks. Fisher knocked down all six of Buchanan's 3-point shots.

Jewell added 10 points for the Titans, while Claire Lietz had six for the Bucks.

Buchanan hopes to take the lessons learned from Monday's loss and apply them to the home stretch of conference play as well as the postseason.

"We're really young but when we play quality teams like (Michigan Lutheran), it comes down to us being disciplined and executing," Miller said. "They made us pay for our mistakes more than we made them pay.

"We were on the wrong side of the win-loss column but I always appreciate coming up here and competing."

MICH. LUTHERAN 55, BUCHANAN 49

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (55)
Mara Rugen 15 1-2 33, Jessi Jewell 3 2-3 10, Abby Harris 2 0-0 4, Jenna Koehler 1 0-0 2, Hailey Conrad 1 0-0 2, Maria Rush 1 0-0 2, Rebekah Hisle 1 0-0 2. Totals: 24 3-5 55.
BUCHANAN (49)
Alea Fisher 10 2-2 28, Faith Carson 6 0-0 12, Claire Lietz 2 2-3 6, Emma Lozmack 1 0-0 2, Sophia Lozmack 0 1-2 1. Totals: 19 5-7 49.

M Lutheran	**13**	**11**	**16**	**15**	**– 55**
Buchanan	**12**	**9**	**15**	**13**	**– 49**

3-point goals – Buchanan 6 (Fisher 6), M Lutheran 4 (Rugen 2, Jewell 2). Total fouls – Buchanan 10, M Lutheran 6. Fouled out – None. Technical fouls – None.
Records – M Lutheran 12-0, Buchanan 8-4.

ROSENBAUM

From page B1

work. Coaching has helped him stay involved with sports as he gets older.

"It means a lot for Matt to participate because he's such a people person," said Mary Rosenbaum, his mother. "Not only is he a people person, he's a sports person."

The team visited Matt for his birthday on Jan. 11, bringing him balloons and cards. Matt named it as one of his favorite things about the season, and Witkowski said it helped him open up more with the team.

The players have found Matt to be a positive presence.

"Matt's just all around a good addition to our team," said Aleece Townley. "He makes our team better and stronger."

"He's never downgrading," said Ellie Primerano. "He's always very encouraging with what he's saying."

"Which means that's the opposite of me," Witkowski joked.

Rosenbaum has also impressed the players with his basketball skills. He makes most of his shots – even the ones he's supposed to miss for rebounding drills.

Titans varsity coach Ron Briney has also found Matt to be helpful.

"It's important in a program to surround yourself with great people," Briney said. "When you have the great people that we are surrounded with, good things happen in the big picture.

"I thought what a neat opportunity for us, and what a neat opportunity for him. You ask him to do anything, it's done. That's a treasured value these days."

Contact: bsanders@thehp.com, 429-1294, @HPBenSanders

Super Bowl betting brings big business to sports books

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Business was brisk at sports books around the country on Super Bowl Sunday, with customers risking money on everything from the coin toss at the start of the game, to the color of the Gatorade dumped on the winning coach, Kansas City's Andy Reid, at the end of it.

The Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 31-20 in a game that was forecast to be among the most heavily wagered-on championship games ever.

Revenue reports began trickling in Monday evening, including the $54.2 million wagered by gamblers in New Jersey, the state whose U.S. Supreme Court victory in 2018 cleared the way for the expansion of legal sports betting to many parts of the country. That total surpassed the $34.8 million New Jersey gamblers bet on the Super Bowl last year.

New Jersey's 10 retail sports books and 19 sports wagering mobile applications lost $4.28 million, for a negative hold percentage of 7.8 percent

Ron Baumann, regional president for Caesars Entertainment, which owns three Atlantic City casinos, said its sports books at Bally's and Harrah's were jammed.

"We exceeded what we thought we would do by far," he said. "We sold out every seat we had, every inch of seating."

The two books handled over 10,000 bets. And the increased foot traffic also gave the casinos a measurable boost in table games and slot revenue, and food and beverage sales, though Baumann would not reveal exact figures for either.

Nevada, the country's largest sports betting market, said it will not release its figures until Tuesday because one of its licensees had technical problems while compiling data. But MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment both reported multimillion-dollar wins from the game.

Last year, Nevada sports books took in $146 million worth of bets on the Super Bowl, down from $158 million a year earlier.

SCOREBOARD

AREA SCHEDULE

Today
Boys basketball
South Bend Clay at Benton Harbor, 7
Gull Lake at Lakeshore, 7
Niles at BC Central, 7
Berrien Springs at Lawrence, 7
Coloma at Lawton, 7
Buchanan at Michigan Lutheran, 7:30
Decatur at Eau Claire, 7:30
Bloomingdale at Hartford, 7:30
Girls basketball
Benton Harbor at Wyo. Godwin Heights, 6:30
Bridgman at Dowagiac, 6:30
Portage Northern at Watervliet, 7
Lawton at Coloma, 7
Lakeshore at Gull Lake, 7:15
Berrien Springs at New Buffalo, 7:30
Hartford at Bloomingdale, 7:30
Boys swimming
South Haven at Otsego, 6
Wednesday, Feb. 5
Wrestling
Mattawan at St. Joseph, 6
Niles at Lakeshore, 6
Berrien Springs at Lawrence, 6
Benton Harbor at River Valley, 6
Buchanan at Brandywine, 6
Decatur, Marcellus, Mendon at Cassopolis, 6
Eau Claire, Hartford, White Pigeon at Centreville, 6
Girls basketball
Buchanan at Bridgman, 6
Bowling
Coloma at Galesburg-Augusta (Eastland Bowl), 3:30
South Haven at Paw Paw (Rainbow Lanes), 4
Competitive cheer
Dowagiac, South Haven at Plainwell, 6
College basketball
LMC women at Glen Oaks CC, 5:30
LMC men at Glen Oaks CC, 7:30

BOWLING

KELLEY'S BOWL

WHIRLPOOL MIXED – Ryan Overhiser 586 (236), Eric Monville 566 (204), Ted Eichler 556 (213), Mike Wright 544 (206), Scott Ostojic 538 (199), Nick Norton 516 (206), Steve Dockham 513, Karyn Fricke 503, Ami Huff 500 (201), Sally Loikits 492, Sue Wyman 484, Linda Dockham 479. Team scores: Up's and Down's 2058 (727), The Bowling Stones 1827 (612).

FRIDAY NITE MIXED – Dan Zimemrman 671 (251), Rob Retz 657 (266), Kristine Mahler 558 (210), Heather Garrison 525 (189). Team scores: Strokers 2241 (820), Fro Pro's 2172 (757).

LAKESHORE LASSIES – Tricia Morris 677 (268), Nicki Brose 628 (234), Harriet Hackbart 568 (256), Alanna Swetay 567 (206), Dianna Evans 546 (201), Karyn Fricke 544, Lisa Hendrixson 538 (202), Desi Williams 525 (214), Sharon Harrington 507, Bobbi Smith 504. Team name: Bowling Besties 1155 (426).

BERRIEN GUTTER GALS – Gladys Hunter 530 (234), Marcia Duminie 490 (201), Heather Garrison 481, Pat Bohanek 480, Nancy Martin 479. Team score: Nash 1,449 (543).

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Standings through Saturday's games
Girls
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
West Division

	Div	Overall
St. Joseph	6-0	9-5
Portage Central	5-1	10-2
Niles	4-2	7-5
Mattawan	2-4	6-7
Lakeshore	1-5	3-9
Portage Northern	0-6	3-10

East Division

	Div	Overall
BC Lakeview	4-1	9-4
Kal. Central	3-1	7-6
BC Central	3-2	10-3
Gull Lake	1-3	5-7
Kal. Loy Norrix	0-4	2-10

WOLVERINE CONFERENCE
North Division

	Div	Overall
Plainwell	6-0	9-3
Otsego	4-2	6-7
Allegan	2-3	5-8
Paw Paw	1-4	4-9
South Haven	1-5	2-11

South Division

	Div	Overall
Edwardsburg	5-1	13-1
Three Rivers	5-1	11-2
Sturgis	3-3	7-7
Vicksburg	1-3	5-8
Dowagiac	0-7	0-12

BERRIEN-CASS-ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE
Red Division

	Div	Overall
Brandywine	6-0	13-0
Buchanan	4-1	8-3
Comstock	3-3	3-9
Bridgman	2-3	3-8
Berrien Springs	2-4	4-9
Parchment	0-6	0-14

White Division

	Div	Overall
Michigan Lutheran	9-0	11-0
New Buffalo	7-2	9-4
River Valley	6-2	8-4
Lake Michigan Catholic	5-4	6-6
Lawrence	4-5	4-10
Howardsville Christian	3-5	3-6
Countryside	1-8	1-8
Covert	0-9	1-9

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Lakeshore Division

	Div	Overall
Martin	5-1	11-1
Gobles	5-1	11-1
Fennville	3-3	6-7
Coloma	3-3	4-8
Saugatuck	2-4	7-6
Watervliet	0-6	3-11

Valley Division

	Div	Overall
Schoolcraft	7-0	11-1
Kal. Hackett	5-1	9-3
Kal. Christian	5-2	9-4
Delton Kellogg	3-4	7-6
Galesburg-Augusta	2-5	6-7
Constantine	2-5	4-7
Lawton	0-7	0-13

SOUTHWEST 10 CONFERENCE

	Conf	Overall
Centreville	9-0	12-0
Bloomingdale	8-2	8-4
Decatur	7-3	10-3
White Pigeon	7-3	8-4
Hartford	5-5	7-5
Marcellus	3-6	6-6
Cassopolis	2-6	3-6
Mendon	1-7	2-7
Bangor	0-10	1-11

INDEPENDENT

	Overall
Benton Harbor	3-9

Boys
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
West Division

	Div	Overall
Lakeshore	4-0	9-0
Portage Central	4-0	8-0
St. Joseph	2-2	3-7
Portage Northern	1-3	3-5
Niles	1-3	2-7
Mattawan	0-4	0-9

East Division

	Div	Overall
Kal. Central	4-0	6-3
Gull Lake	3-1	6-4
BC Lakeview	1-2	6-3
BC Central	1-2	3-7
Kal. Loy Norrix	0-4	2-9

WOLVERINE CONFERENCE
North Division

	Div	Overall
Otsego	3-0	10-1
South Haven	2-1	5-5
Paw Paw	2-2	5-5
Plainwell	1-2	1-9
Allegan	0-3	2-9

South Division

	Div	Overall
Dowagiac	4-0	7-4
Sturgis	2-1	7-3
Edwardsburg	2-1	6-5
Three Rivers	0-3	4-5
Vicksburg	0-3	3-7

BERRIEN-CASS-ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE
Red Division

	Div	Overall
Brandywine	3-1	9-1
Bridgman	3-1	8-3
Buchanan	2-2	6-2
Parchment	2-2	5-4
Comstock	2-2	3-5
Berrien Springs	0-4	3-6

White Division

	Div	Overall
River Valley	7-0	9-2
New Buffalo	5-1	5-4
Howardsville Christian	5-2	6-3
Michigan Lutheran	3-3	4-4
Countryside	2-4	2-5
Lawrence	3-4	4-7
Lake Michigan Catholic	2-6	2-7
Covert	0-7	0-9

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Lakeshore Division

	Div	Overall
Fennville	5-0	8-1
Gobles	4-1	7-2
Coloma	3-2	5-4
Martin	2-3	2-8
Watervliet	1-4	4-7
Saugatuck	0-5	1-8

Valley Division

	Div	Overall
Schoolcraft	7-0	10-0
Kal. Christian	4-2	6-4
Kal. Hackett	4-1	5-4
Delton Kellogg	2-4	4-5
Constantine	2-4	4-5
Lawton	2-4	4-6
Galesburg-Augusta	0-6	1-8

SOUTHWEST 10 CONFERENCE

	Conf	Overall
Cassopolis	6-1	6-3
Marcellus	6-1	7-2
Bloomingdale	5-2	7-2
Centreville	5-2	6-3
White Pigeon	4-3	4-4
Hartford	4-3	5-4
Eau Claire	2-4	3-4
Mendon	1-6	1-6
Decatur	1-6	2-7
Bangor	0-6	0-7

INDEPENDENT

	Overall
Benton Harbor	9-1

Michigan prep girls basketball poll
The top 10 teams in the Michigan Associated Press high school basketball poll, with records in parentheses. Totals are based on 15 points for a first-place vote, 14 for second,etc.:

Division 1

School	Total	Points
1. East Lansing (3)	(12-1)	73
2. Hudsonville (2)	(12-0)	72
3. Bloomfield Hills Marian	(11-2)	62
4. Hartland	(11-1)	53
5. Farmington Hills Mercy	(12-1)	51
(tie) Brighton	(11-1)	51
7. East Grand Rapids	(13-1)	45
8. Detroit Renaissance	(12-2)	39
9. Flint Carman Ainsworth	(12-1)	32
10. Port Huron	(16-0)	27

Others receiving votes: Macomb Dakota 16, Midland Dow 12.

Division 2

School	Total	Points
1. Detroit Edison (5)	(13-0)	75
2. Chelsea	(11-1)	69
3. Portland	(13-1)	62
4. Menominee	(13-0)	56
(tie) Cadillac	(12-0)	56
6. Edwardsburg	(13-1)	47
7. Parma Western	(11-2)	43
(tie) Grand Rapids Christian	(11-2)	43
9. Goodrich	(10-2)	27
10. Williamston	(10-3)	25

Others receiving votes: Three Rivers 24, Battle Creek Harper Creek 15, Tecumseh 13.

Division 3

School	Total	Points
1. Grass Lake (5)	(12-1)	75
2. Pewamo-Westphalia	(10-2)	68
3. Byron	(12-0)	60
(tie) Kent City	(12-1)	60
5. Centreville	(12-0)	53
6. Flint Hamady	(12-1)	49
7. Lake City	(12-1)	48
8. Niles Brandywine	(13-0)	41
9. Manton	(14-1)	32
10. Michigan Center	(10-3)	24

Others receiving votes: Brooklyn Columbia Central 22, Ypsilanti Arbor Preparatory 21.

Division 4

School	Total	Points
1. Adrian Lenawee Chr. (4)	(11-1)	60
2. St. Ignace LaSalle	(10-1)	55
3. Bellaire	(12-0)	51
4. Mt Pleasant Sac. Heart	(13-0)	50
5. SJ Michigan Lutheran	(11-0)	37
6. Martin	(11-1)	32
7. Pittsford	(13-1)	29
8. Camden-Frontier	(13-1)	28
9. Kingston	(11-1)	26
10. Allen Pk Inter-City Bapt.	(10-0)	23

Others receiving votes: Pickford 21, Ewen-Trout Creek 20, Felch North Dickinson 14.

Michigan prep boys basketball poll
Division 1

School	Total	Points
1. River Rouge (5)	(13-1)	75
2. Orchard Lake St. Mary's	(11-1)	68
3. Clarkston	(12-1)	67
4. Detroit Cass Tech	(13-1)	58
5. Ann Arbor Huron	(11-0)	54
6. Ypsilanti Lincoln	(9-2)	51
7. Muskegon	(9-1)	46
8. Mount Pleasant	(12-0)	37
9. Waterford Mott	(10-2)	30
10. Detroit King	(11-3)	25

Others receiving votes: Grand Blanc 22, Hudsonville 22.

Division 2

School	Total	Points
1. Williamston (1)	(12-1)	50
2. GR Catholic	(11-1)	47
3. GR Christian (3)	(13-0)	45
4. Bridgeport	(12-0)	44
5. Benton Harbor	(11-1)	43
6. Goodrich	(11-1)	41
7. Croswell-Lexington	(11-1)	29
8. Detroit Douglass	(12-3)	27
9. Otsego	(12-1)	22
(tie) Cadillac	(10-1)	22

Others receiving votes: Ovid-Elsie 19, Carrollton 19, Hudsonville Unity Christian 17, Ionia (10-1) 17, Grand Rapids South Christian 13.

Division 3

School	Total	Points
1. Flint Beecher (3)	(10-1)	73
2. Iron Mountain (2)	(11-0)	70
3. Hanover-Horton	(9-1)	56
3. Schoolcraft	(12-0)	56
5. Ravenna	(11-0)	52
6. Oscoda	(11-0)	48
(tie) Pewamo-Westphalia	(10-1)	48
8. Maple City Glen Lake	(10-1)	36
9. Detroit Edison	(7-3)	31
10. Negaunee	(11-1)	28

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Blissfield 21, Niles Brandywine 20, McBain 13.

Division 4

School	Total	Points
1. Southfield Christian (3)	(9-3)	59
2. Kingston (1)	(12-0)	56
3. Dollar Bay	(10-0)	53
4. Frankfort-Elberta	(10-1)	43
5. Hillsdale Academy	(10-1)	41
6. Hale	(11-1)	40
7. Gaylord St. Mary	(9-1)	29
8. Pickford	(9-1)	28
(tie) Camden-Frontier	(10-2)	28
(tie) Mio Au Sable	(9-2)	28

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Pellston 20, International Academy of Flint 12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC 38, ANDREWS ACADEMY 29

LM CATHOLIC (38)
Emily Lage 6 3-10 15, Elena Proos 2 1-2 7, Claire LaSata 2 1-2 7, Maggie Tidey 2 0-0 5, Chloe Mills 2 0-0 4. Totals: 14 3-10 38.
ANDREWS ACADEMY (29)
J. Hong 4 3-4 15, L. Everett 3 4-4 10, A. Simpson 1 0-0 2, Z. Drew 1 0-0 2. 11 7-8 29.

LM Catholic	**10**	**11**	**8**	**9**	**– 38**
Andrews	**6**	**0**	**4**	**19**	**– 29**

3-point goals – LM Catholic 5 (Proos 2, LaSata 2, Tidey), Andrews 4 (Hong 4).
Records – LM Catholic 7-6.

GIRLS BOWLING

COLOMA WINS STURGIS BOWL

The Coloma girls bowling team took first place at the Sturgis Bowl on Sunday.
The Comets, ranked No. 2 in Division 3, defeated Bronson 1076-1041 in the semifinal round and beat Coldwater 1218-1141 in the finals.

BOYS BOWLING

COLOMA 30, MARTIN 0

Team totals – Coloma 1683, Martin 1058.
Baker games – Coloma 201, Martin 102; Coloma 151, Martin 138
Coloma individuals (2 games) – Charlie Cullitan 371, Jonathan Swetay 341, Ryan Wilson 361.
Martin individuals – Cris Ramos 268, James Blackburn 198, Dominic Speed 194, Logan Kennedy 231, Julian Guevara 173.

NFL

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4
Houston 22, Buffalo 19, OT
Tennessee 20, New England 13
Sunday, Jan. 5
Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT
Seattle 17, Phila. 9<
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
San Francisco 27, Minnesota 10
Tennessee 28, Baltimore 12
Sunday, Jan. 12
Kansas City 51, Houston 31
Green Bay 28, Seattle 23
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
Kansas City 35, Tennessee 24
San Francisco 37, Green Bay 20
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC 38, NFC 33
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Kansas City 31, San Francisco 20

KANSAS CITY 31, SAN FRANCISCO 20

San Francisco	**3**	**7**	**10**	**0**	**— 20**
Kansas City	**7**	**3**	**0**	**21**	**— 31**

First Quarter
SF—FG Gould 38, 7:57.
KC—Mahomes 1 run (Butker kick), :31.
Second Quarter
KC—FG Butker 31, 9:32.
SF—Juszczyk 15 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 5:05.
Third Quarter
SF—FG Gould 42, 9:29.
SF—Mostert 1 run (Gould kick), 2:35.
Fourth Quarter
KC—Kelce 1 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 6:13.
KC—D.Williams 5 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 2:44.
KC—D.Williams 38 run (Butker kick), 1:12.
A—62,417.

	SF	KC
First downs	21	26
Total Net Yards	351	397
Rushes-yards	22-141	29-129
Passing	210	268
Punt Returns	1-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns	4-61	3-58
Interceptions Ret.	2-10	2-1
Comp-Att-Int	20-31-2	26-42-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-9	4-18
Punts	2-43.0	2-50.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-0
Penalties-Yards	5-45	4-24
Time of Possession	26:47	33:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing–San Francisco, Mostert 12-58, Samuel 3-53, Coleman 5-28, Garoppolo 2-2. Kansas City, D.Williams 17-104, Mahomes 9-29, Kelce 1-2, Thompson 1-0, Hardman 1-(minus 6).
Passing–San Francisco, Garoppolo 20-31-2-219. Kansas City, Mahomes 26-42-2-286.
Receiving–San Francisco, Samuel 5-39, Kittle 4-36, Juszczyk 3-39, Sanders 3-38, Bourne 2-42, Wilson 1-20, Coleman 1-3, Mostert 1-2. Kansas City, Hill 9-105, Kelce 6-43, Watkins 5-98, D.Williams 4-29, Bell 1-9, Hardman 1-2.
Missed Field Goals–None.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Men's Top 25
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (49)	19-1	1608	1
2. Gonzaga (15)	23-1	1567	2
3. Kansas (1)	18-3	1472	3
4. San Diego St.	23-0	1447	4
5. Louisville	19-3	1352	6
6. Dayton	20-2	1271	7
7. Duke	18-3	1242	9
8. Florida St.	18-3	1188	5
9. Maryland	17-4	999	15
10. Villanova	17-4	959	8
11. Auburn	19-2	926	17
12. Seton Hall	16-5	900	10
13. West Virginia	17-4	827	12
14. Oregon	18-5	758	11
15. Kentucky	16-5	660	13
16. Michigan St.	16-6	624	14
17. Iowa	16-6	604	18
18. LSU	17-4	572	22
19. Butler	17-5	437	16
20. Illinois	16-6	373	19
21. Creighton	17-5	372	—
22. Penn St.	16-5	356	24
23. Arizona	15-6	164	—
24. Colorado	17-5	134	20
25. Houston	17-5	85	21

Others receiving votes: Texas Tech 66, Marquette 31, Ohio St. 19, Tulsa 19, Rhode Island 18, N. Iowa 17, Wichita St. 17, BYU 14, Rutgers 12, Stanford 7, Stephen F. Austin 3, Bowling Green 1, Michigan 1, Virginia 1, Winthrop 1, Yale 1.

AP Women's Top 25
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (26)	21-1	746	1
2. Baylor (3)	19-1	718	2
3. Oregon	19-2	673	3
4. UConn	19-1	662	4
5. Louisville (1)	21-1	641	5
6. Stanford	20-2	605	6
7. NC State	21-1	563	7
8. Mississippi St.	19-3	533	9
9. Oregon St.	18-4	505	10
10. UCLA	19-2	462	8
11. Gonzaga	22-1	437	12
12. Arizona	18-3	413	16
13. Maryland	17-4	371	17
14. DePaul	20-3	360	11
15. Kentucky	17-4	302	13
16. Texas A&M	18-4	291	15
17. Florida St.	18-4	272	14
18. Indiana	17-5	194	20
19. Arizona St.	16-6	182	19
20. Iowa	18-4	172	18
21. Northwestern	19-3	171	23
22. South Dakota	21-2	143	21
23. Tennessee	17-5	90	22
24. Missouri St.	18-3	77	24
25. Arkansas	18-4	68	25

Others receiving votes: Princeton 48, TCU 25, LSU 13, Florida Gulf Coast 11, Stony Brook 2.

Men's conference standings

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Louisville	10	1	.909	19	3	.864
Duke	8	2	.800	18	3	.857
Florida St.	8	2	.800	18	3	.857
Virginia	6	4	.600	14	6	.700
Syracuse	6	5	.545	13	9	.591
NC State	5	6	.455	14	8	.636
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	14	8	.636
Virginia Tech	5	6	.455	14	8	.636
Clemson	5	6	.455	11	10	.524
Boston College	5	6	.455	11	11	.500
Notre Dame	4	6	.400	13	8	.619
Georgia Tech	4	7	.364	10	12	.455
North Carolina	3	7	.300	10	11	.476
Miami	3	8	.273	11	10	.524
Wake Forest	3	8	.273	10	11	.476

Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh 62, Miami 57
Monday's Games
North Carolina at Florida St.
Today's Games
Duke at Boston College, 7 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech, 7 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Pittsburgh at Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m.
Clemson at Virginia, 7 p.m.
NC State at Miami, 8:30 p.m.
Wake Forest at Louisville, 9 p.m.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Illinois	8	3	.727	16	6	.727
Michigan St.	8	3	.727	16	6	.727
Maryland	7	3	.700	17	4	.810
Iowa	7	4	.636	16	6	.727
Rutgers	7	4	.636	16	6	.727
Penn St.	6	4	.600	16	5	.762
Wisconsin	6	5	.545	13	9	.591
Indiana	5	6	.455	15	7	.682
Purdue	5	6	.455	12	10	.545
Minnesota	5	6	.455	11	10	.524
Ohio St.	4	6	.400	14	7	.667
Michigan	4	6	.400	13	8	.619
Nebraska	2	9	.182	7	15	.318
Northwestern	1	10	.091	6	15	.286

Sunday's Games
Iowa 72, Illinois 65
Tuesday's Games
Rutgers at Maryland, 7 p.m.
Ohio St. at Michigan, 7 p.m.
Penn St. at Michigan St., 8 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Iowa at Purdue, 7 p.m.
Wisconsin at Minnesota, 9 p.m.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Bowling Green	8	1	.889	17	5	.773
Cent. Michigan	5	2	.714	12	8	.600
Akron	6	3	.667	16	6	.727
Kent St.	6	3	.667	16	6	.727
N. Illinois	6	3	.667	13	9	.591
Ball St.	5	3	.625	12	9	.571
Buffalo	5	4	.556	14	8	.636
Toledo	3	6	.333	11	11	.500
Miami (Ohio)	2	6	.250	9	12	.429
W. Michigan	2	6	.250	9	12	.429
Ohio	2	7	.222	10	12	.455
E. Michigan	1	7	.125	11	10	.524

Tuesday's Games
Bowling Green at Cent. Michigan, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at E. Michigan, 7 p.m.
Ball St. at Kent St., 7 p.m.
W. Michigan at Miami (Ohio), 7 p.m.
N. Illinois at Toledo, 7 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	36	14	.720	—
Boston	34	15	.694	1½
Phila.	31	20	.608	5½
Brooklyn	22	27	.449	13½
New York	15	36	.294	21½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	34	15	.694	—
Orlando	22	28	.440	12½
Washington	17	32	.347	17
Charlotte	16	34	.320	18½
Atlanta	13	38	.255	22

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	42	7	.857	—
Indiana	31	19	.620	11½
Chicago	19	33	.365	24½
Detroit	18	34	.346	25½
Cleveland	13	38	.255	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	31	18	.633	—
Dallas	31	19	.620	½
Memphis	25	25	.500	6½
San Antonio	22	26	.458	8½
New Orleans	20	30	.400	11½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	34	16	.680	—
Utah	32	17	.653	1½
Oklahoma City	30	20	.600	4
Portland	23	27	.460	11
Minnesota	15	33	.313	18

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	37	11	.771	—
L.A. Clippers	34	15	.694	3½
Phoenix	20	30	.400	18
Sacramento	18	31	.367	19½
Golden State	12	39	.235	26½

Sunday's Games
Detroit 128, Denver 123, OT
Houston 117, New Orleans 109
Milwaukee 129, Phoenix 108
Toronto 129, Chicago 102
Monday's Games
Dallas 112, Indiana 103
Golden State 125, Washington 117
New York 139, Cleveland 134, OT
Orlando 112, Charlotte 100
Boston 123, Atlanta 115
Miami 137, Phila. 106
Brooklyn 119, Phoenix 97
Memphis 96, Detroit 82
Minnesota at Sacramento
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers
Today's Games
Milwaukee at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Houston, 8 p.m.
Portland at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	53	31	10	12	74	177	137
Tampa Bay	52	32	15	5	69	188	145
Florida	51	29	17	5	63	188	170
Toronto	53	28	18	7	63	191	176
Montreal	54	24	23	7	55	167	166
Buffalo	52	23	22	7	53	150	161
Ottawa	52	18	24	10	46	142	176
Detroit	54	12	38	4	28	111	207

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	53	35	13	5	75	193	158
Pittsburgh	52	33	14	5	71	176	142
Columbus	53	28	16	9	65	143	135
Philadelphia	53	29	17	7	65	170	157
N.Y. Islanders	50	29	15	6	64	146	136
Carolina	52	30	19	3	63	166	139
N.Y. Rangers	51	25	22	4	54	166	166
New Jersey	51	18	24	9	45	137	185

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	53	31	14	8	70	168	150
Dallas	52	30	18	4	64	139	132
Colorado	50	28	16	6	62	182	149
Chicago	52	25	21	6	56	158	163
Winnipeg	53	26	23	4	56	158	164
Nashville	51	24	20	7	55	169	171
Minnesota	51	23	22	6	52	157	172

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	53	30	18	5	65	177	159
Edmonton	52	28	18	6	62	170	162
Vegas	54	27	20	7	61	168	162
Calgary	53	27	20	6	60	146	163
Arizona	54	26	21	7	59	152	148
San Jose	53	22	27	4	48	136	177
Anaheim	52	21	26	5	47	134	161
Los Angeles	53	19	29	5	43	131	167

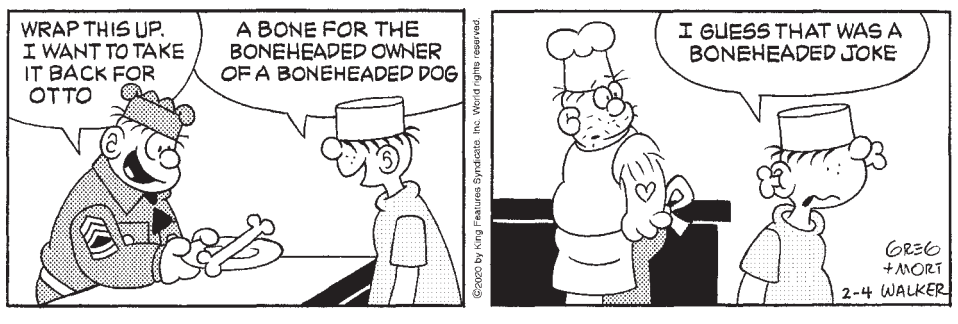
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh 4, Washington 3
Columbus 4, Montreal 3
Carolina 4, Vancouver 3, SO
Monday's Games
Dallas 5, N.Y. Rangers 3
Florida 5, Toronto 3
Philadelphia 3, Detroit 0
Today's Games
Colorado at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Florida at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Boston, 7 p.m.
Vegas at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Arizona, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Calgary, 9 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA 3, DETROIT 0

Philadelphia	**0**	**1**	**2**	**—**	**3**
Detroit	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**0**

First Period—None. Penalties—Daley, Det (Holding), 10:02.
Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Laughton 9 (Raffl, Hagg), 9:31. Penalties—Biega, Det (Holding), 7:02.
Third Period—2, Philadelphia, Hayes 17, 2:47 (sh). 3, Philadelphia, Niskanen 7 (Provorov), 17:43 (en). Penalties—Laughton, Phi (High Sticking), 2:03; Voracek, Phi (Tripping), 16:24.
Sh

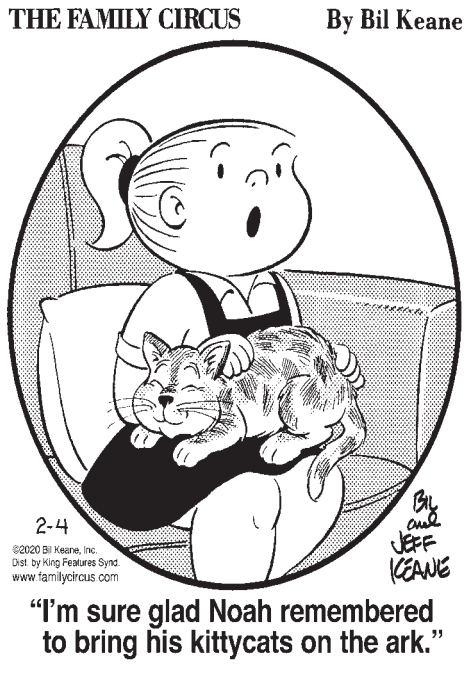
BEETLE BAILEY


WRAP THIS UP. I WANT TO TAKE IT BACK FOR OTTO
A BONE FOR THE BONEHEADED OWNER OF A BONEHEADED DOG
I GUESS THAT WAS A BONEHEADED JOKE
GREG + MORT
2-4 WALKER

BLONDIE

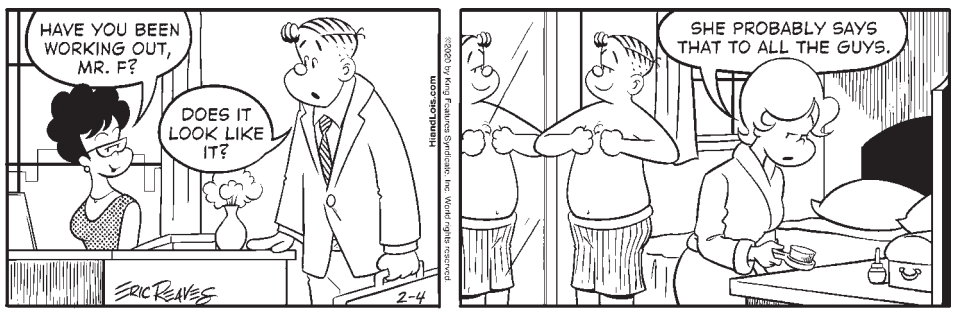
CAN YOU KEEP A REALLY FUNNY SECRET?
FOR HOW LONG?
THAT'S ACTUALLY A VERY GOOD ANSWER!
THANK YOU! SO, WHAT'S THE SECRET?
2-4 MARSHALL

FAMILY CIRCUS

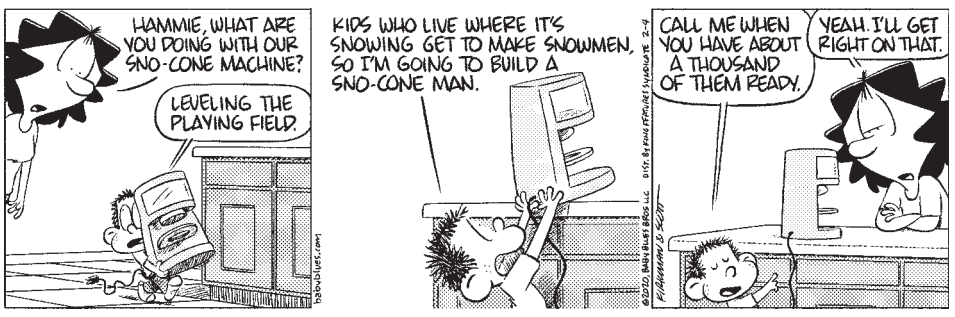


DENNIS THE MENACE

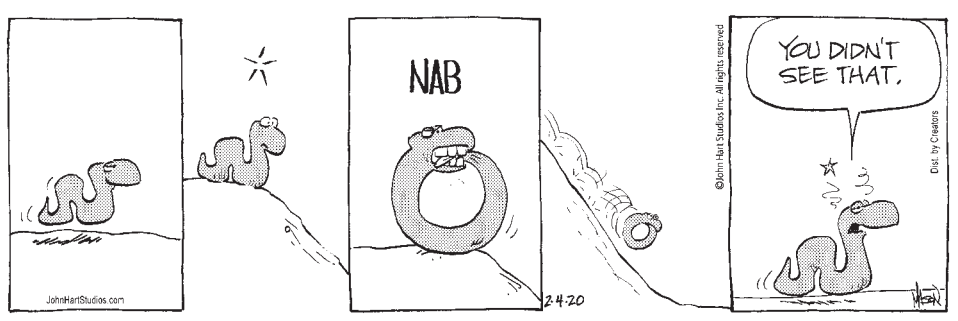
HI & LOIS



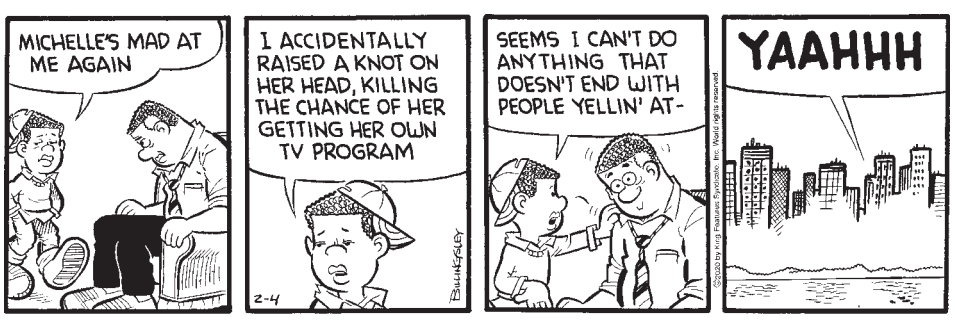
BABY BLUES


HAMMIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH OUR SNO-CONE MACHINE?
LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD.
KIDS WHO LIVE WHERE IT'S SNOWING GET TO MAKE SNOWMEN, SO I'M GOING TO BUILD A SNO-CONE MAN.
CALL ME WHEN YOU HAVE ABOUT A THOUSAND OF THEM READY.
YEAH. I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT.

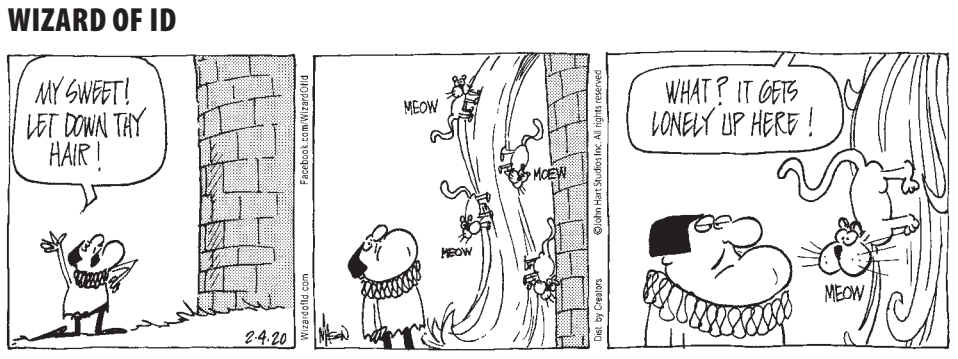
BC



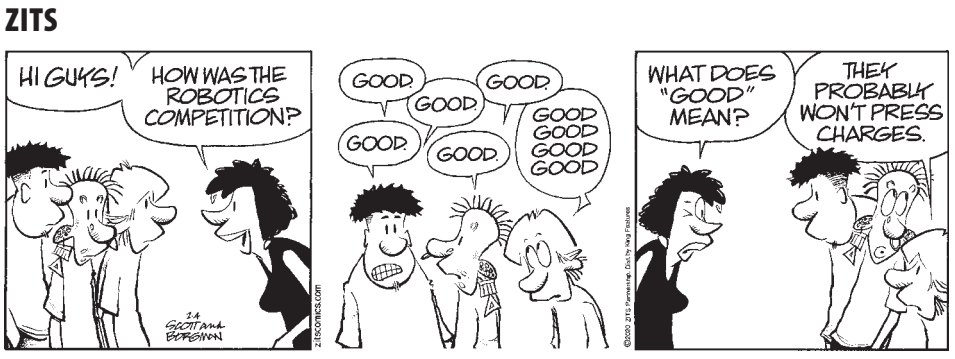
CURTIS


MICHELLE'S MAD AT ME AGAIN
I ACCIDENTALLY RAISED A KNOT ON HER HEAD, KILLING THE CHANCE OF HER GETTING HER OWN TV PROGRAM
SEEMS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T END WITH PEOPLE YELLIN' AT-
YAAHHH
2-4

WIZARD OF ID



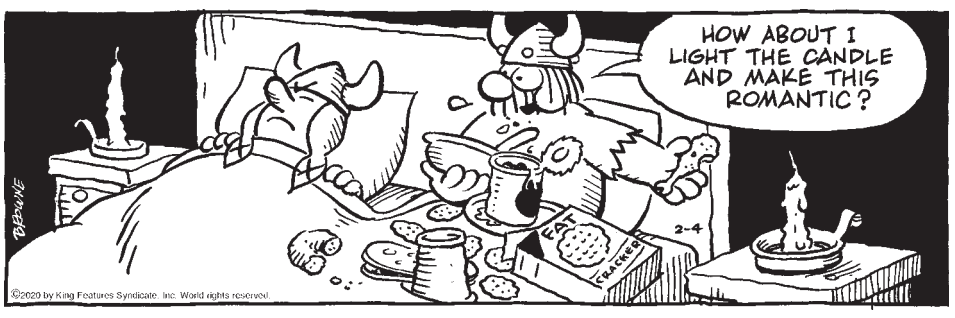
ZITS


HI GUYS!
HOW WAS THE ROBOTICS COMPETITION?
GOOD. GOOD. GOOD. GOOD. GOOD. GOOD. GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD
WHAT DOES "GOOD" MEAN?
THEY PROBABLY WON'T PRESS CHARGES.

DILBERT

MARKETING IS COMPLAINING THAT YOU'RE NOT USING THEIR IDEAS.
THAT'S BECAUSE ALL OF THEIR IDEAS ARE MORONIC.
I TOLD THEM I FIRED YOU. DON'T LEAVE YOUR CUBICLE OR USE ANY DIGITAL DEVICES UNTIL THIS BLOWS OVER.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



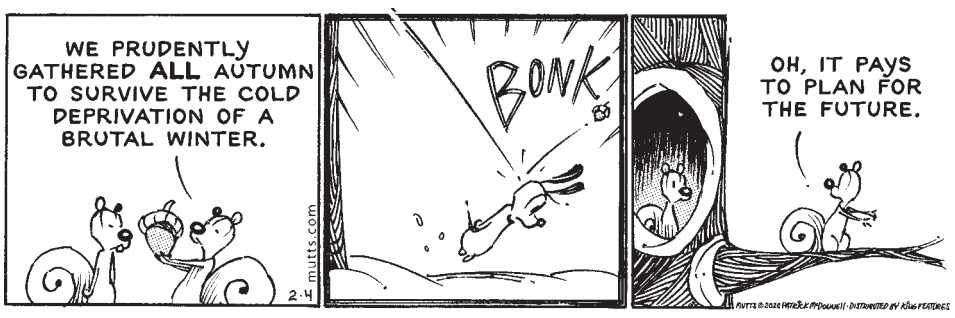
GARFIELD

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

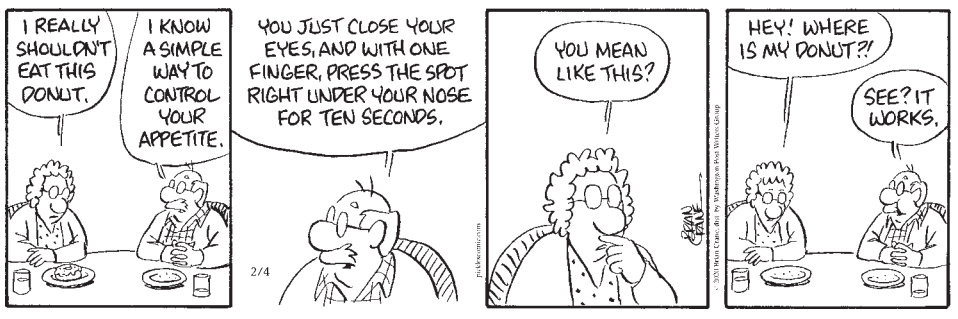
FORT KNOX

I'M NOT FEEDING YOUR STUFFED BEAR A WATER BUFFALO.
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO, GRANDMOTHER.
GOOD - YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A MINUTE THERE.
LET'S JUST TAKE HIM OUT TO DINNER.
WHAT'S HIS FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT?
THE ZOO.
2-4-20

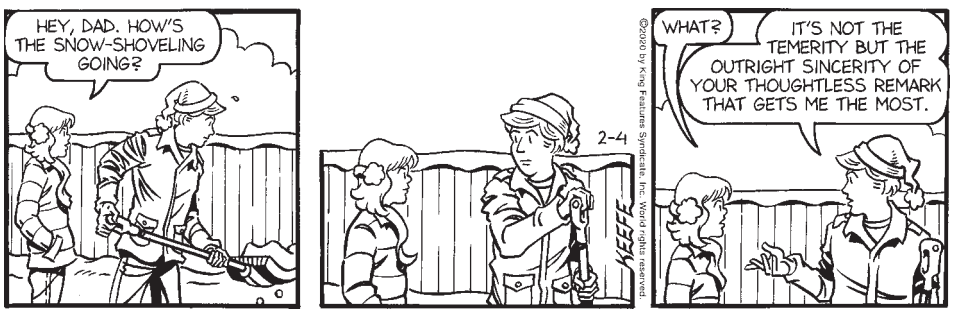
MUTTS


WE PRUDENTLY GATHERED ALL AUTUMN TO SURVIVE THE COLD DEPRIVATION OF A BRUTAL WINTER.
BONK
OH, IT PAYS TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.
2-4
mutts.com

PICKLES


I REALLY SHOULDN'T EAT THIS DONUT.
I KNOW A SIMPLE WAY TO CONTROL YOUR APPETITE.
YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND WITH ONE FINGER, PRESS THE SPOT RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE FOR TEN SECONDS.
YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?
HEY! WHERE IS MY DONUT?!
SEE? IT WORKS.
2/4

SALLY FORTH


HEY, DAD. HOW'S THE SNOW-SHOVELING GOING?
2-4
WHAT?
IT'S NOT THE TEMERITY BUT THE OUTRIGHT SINCERITY OF YOUR THOUGHTLESS REMARK THAT GETS ME THE MOST.

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING FEB. 4

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	The Conners	Bless This M.	The State of the Union and the Democratic Response (N) (L) CC			
CBS (2)(3)(22)	Ent. Tonight	NCIS Ziva surprises Gibbs. CC (DVS)		CBS News: State of the Union 2020 President Trump's address to the nation. (N)			
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Ac. Hollywood	Ellen's Game of Games (N) CC		State of the Union President Trump's address to the nation. (N) (L) CC			
FOX (17)(222)(28)(32)	Modern Family	Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell		State of the Union Address (N) (L) CC			News 10:00PM
PBS (34)	Steves' Europe	Finding Your Roots With Henry		PBS NewsHour -- President Trump's 2020 State of the Union (N) (L) CC			
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	The Flash "Marathon" (N) CC		DC's Legends of Tomorrow (N) CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT (50)	Family Feud (N)	Chicago P.D. CC		Chicago P.D. A mass shooting takes place.		Chicago P.D. "Born Into Bad News"	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	The Flash "Marathon" (N) CC		DC's Legends of Tomorrow (N) CC		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Do the Right Thing"		Highway to Heaven CC		The List (N) CC	Celebrity Page (N)
WGN (9)	News	black-ish	black-ish	State of the Union Address President Trump's address to the nation. (N) CC			
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 "Blood on Bourbon" CC		The First 48: Shocking Interrogations (N)		The First 48: Shocking Interrogations (N)	
AMC	The Book of Eli ('10)	★★ Fantastic Four ('05) Ioan Gruffudd. Cosmic radiation grants four people unusual powers. CC					Fantastic Four
Animal	Tree	Treehouse Masters: Branched Out (N)				Treehouse Masters	
BET	5:30 ★★★ Creed ('15)			★★★ Training Day ('01) CC			
Big Ten	Tip-Off	College Basketball				Postgame	B1G
Bravo	Vanderpump Rul	Vanderpump Rules CC		Vanderpump Rules "Grumpy Old Men"		Watch What	Vanderpump Rul
Cartoon	Gumball	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	★★ Suspect Zero	★★★ Déjà Vu ('06, Suspense) Denzel Washington, Val Kilmer. CC				:10 ★★★ Signs ('02) CC	
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	Shark	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank		The Profit CC	
CNN	OutFront	The State of the Union Address (N) (L) CC					
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	:00 Moonshiners	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N) CC		Moonshiners "Say Yes to the Mess" (N)		Guardians of the Glades (N) CC	
Disney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Gabby	Sydney	Just Roll	Coop	Sydney
DIY	Salvage	Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid	
E!	6:30 ★★★ Knocked Up			★★★ Superbad ('07) Jonah Hill.			
ESPN	College Basketball Teams TBA.			College Basketball			
ESPN2	College Basketball Teams TBA.			College Basketball			
ESPNC	Basket	College Football From Oct. 14, 1995.				College Football	
Food	Chopped	Chopped CC		Chopped (N) CC		Chopped (N) CC	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Tennis	PBA Bowling Greater Jonesboro Open.				Motorcycle Race	
Freefrm	Twilight: Extended	★★★ The Social Network ('10) Jesse Eisenberg. (P). Legal and personal complications follow Facebook's founding. CC					
FX	Life of Pets	★★★ Ferdinand ('17, Children's) Voices of John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Gina Rodriguez. (P). CC					Ferdinand
Golf	Golf	Golf's Greatest Rounds (N)					Central
Hallmark	Date With Love ('16)	Love at First Glance ('17, Drama) Amy Smart, Adrian Grenier. CC				A Valentine's Match ('20) CC	
HBO	:45 ★★★ John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum ('19, Action) Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry. CC					Shakira in Concert: El Dorado World	
History	Oak Is	Curse-Island		Curse-Island		Project Blue Book	
HGTV	Fixer	Love It or List It (N)		Unsella	Unsella	Rehab	Rehab
Learning	Fabulous	Fat Fabulous		I Am Jazz (N)		:02 Sister Wives	
Lifetime	★ Big Daddy	★★ Sex and the City ('08, Romance-Comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Chris Noth. CC					
MSNBC	Hardball	State of the		State of the Union Address (N) (L) CC			
MTV	Catfish	Siesta Key (N) CC		Teen Mom: Young		Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Pregame	N.D. Bsk.	All Ac	Rugby Sevens World Series Sydney, Day 1.			
NFL	NFL Total	Deion's Double Play		Super Bowl		NFL Replay GOTW	
Nick	To Be Announced			The Crystal Maze		Friends	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Ice Breakers		Life Below Zero (N)		Port Protection	
Oxygen	:00 Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D. "Some Friend"		Chicago P.D. "300,000 Likes"		Chicago P.D. CC (DVS)	
Parmt	To Be Announced					Ink Master (N) CC	
Showtime	:15 ★★ Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story ('07) (P).			Inside the NFL ((F)) (N) CC		Desus & Mero	Cartoon President
Starz	:02 ★★ Superfly ('18, Suspense) Trevor Jackson. CC			★★ Once Upon a Time in Mexico ('03) Antonio Banderas.			Moneyball ('11)
STZENC	:08 ★★★ Lethal Weapon ('87, Action) Mel Gibson. CC			Wrong Man CC		:01 Wrong Man CC	
SyFy	6:00 ★ Gods of Egypt ('16) CC		★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road ('15, Action) Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult. CC (DVS)				
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Miracle Workers
TCM	None-Lonely	★★★★ Going My Way ('44, Musical) Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald. CC				:15 ★★★ Road to Morocco	
TMC	6:20 The Eye	★★★ Misery ('90, Horror) James Caan, Kathy Bates. CC				A Violent Separation ('19) CC	
TNT	NBA Basketball: Bucks at Pelicans					NBA Basketball	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures (N) CC				Ghost Adventures	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	King	King
USA	The Biggest Loser "Time for Change: Supersized"			The Biggest Loser "A Big Loss" (N)		Miz & Mrs (N)	Biggest Loser
VH1	Hip Hop	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	:00 ★★ The Chronicles of Riddick ('04) Vin Diesel, Colm Feore. CC				★★ The Chronicles of Riddick ('04) Vin Diesel. CC		

Fear keeps jittery driver from getting a license

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am trying hard to let go of my paralyzing fear of driving, which has prevented me from getting a license. I am not sure why I get so nervous and afraid when I get behind the wheel. I really need a car to get my family and myself around. I just wish I knew what was causing this. Could you please help me figure it out? – Fear Of Driving

DEAR F.O.D.: Gladly. The quickest way to get to the bottom of what's causing your fear of driving would be to discuss it with a licensed mental health professional – if possible, one who specializes in treating patients with phobias. Your physician or your health insurance company should be able to refer you to someone who is qualified.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, my wife and I invited another couple over for dinner. The husband was on his phone the entire time, showing us YouTube videos he apparently thought were interesting. After dinner, he lamented that he had run out of data and wanted us to provide our Wi-Fi password so he could continue watching his videos. I begrudgingly gave him access, but was really irked by it. Isn't it rude for a dinner guest to ask to use your Wi-Fi? – Not So Interested

DEAR NOT SO INTERESTED: It was not rude to ask for your Wi-Fi password. In some circles, it's normal. What WAS rude was for one guest to monopolize the conversation the way that dinner guest did. I'll bet it will be a long time before you invite that couple again.

DEAR ABBY: I need help dealing with a neighbor problem. "Diane" and I have been neighbors for five years. We both have daughters in elementary school who ride the bus. At the bus stop, Diane always manages to point out something about my daughter or me that makes me uncomfortable. She'll ask things like, "Are those new shoes?" "I like that jacket. Was it expensive?" "You have a new hairdo; did it cost much?" Or "Wow, how can you afford such nice clothes for your daughter?" "Are those new jeans? How much were they?"

I find her prying annoying and quite rude. Most of the other parents avoid her, probably because of this behavior. I work to afford the things I have, and I don't feel I need to discuss what I spend for my child or myself with anyone. Other than this, she's a nice neighbor. What's the best way to get her to stop asking these questions? I try to ignore them, but this has been going on for years, and I'm at a loss. – Annoyed In North Carolina

DEAR ANNOYED: The surest way to get your neighbor to stop asking these kinds of questions would be the direct approach. Tell her questions of that nature make you uncomfortable and to please stop asking. If she persists, repeat it until she finally gets the message.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Husband stayed out crazy late, then yelled at me for protesting

Carolyn Hax

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: Spouse went out with friends Saturday afternoon, did not communicate plans, did not come home until 4 a.m., and then yelled at me for being upset. That's enough, isn't it? – Do the Other Details Even Matter?

Sure sounds that way.

It's certainly enough for this, now that things have presumably cooled off:

"You went out, didn't say where or with whom, came home crazy late, and yelled at me for being upset about that. Facts not open to debate. So now I'm wondering: What is the bigger thing going on that this incident represents? Because it's such a departure that I'm worried about what it means, and why you would do it, more so than any of the specific details of it."

Your most important contribution to honesty here is to remain calm and unflinching in your expectation that you be given the truth. Make it as easy as possible for your spouse to tell it, even a terrible one.

I hope your spouse has enough respect for you and self to be honest about the bigger thing. Good luck.

Hi, Carolyn: Is it your sense that people have started to use the term "extrovert" in a derogatory sense? In other words, is there something insulting about describing a person as someone who thrives on social contact? I have always used the term where appropriate to mean exactly that.

I am an introvert through and through; I like to spend my free time reading and pursuing solitary hobbies. My mom and my husband are extroverts, as are some of my closest friends. I love them all. But my friend "Lily" recently took me to task for using this term, saying she feels that it's a thinly veiled insult and that I am actually implying she is needy and lightweight.

Not true! She is one of the smartest people I know. I understand that not everyone thinks reading a novel is a great way to spend a Friday night.

She says "everyone knows" introverts believe they are intellectually superior.

What do you think? Has the use of this word veered into a territory I wasn't aware of? – Introvert

DEAR INTROVERT: "Extrovert" is now forbidden, yes, because the new word is the older "extravert," which is also forbidden, which is sad, because now the only words we have left to use safely are "and," "the" and "popcorn."

I should not have used "safely," because that is now political, as is "political."

In related news, the new "Use your words!" for parents coaching small children is now "Don't use your words," so as not to be speakist. I would tweet this out if I weren't boycotting Twitter. And "boycott."

As for the suggestion that all introverts believe they are superior, that is merely a sign that something long invalidated has recently been validated – which in present-tense America means it must be swiftly re-invalidated with an accusation of conspiring to seize power (see also: racial, sexual, gender or religious minorities; women; immigrants; nerds; green leafy vegetables).

Please assure Lily this is the one needy and lightweight thing you have ever heard her say.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

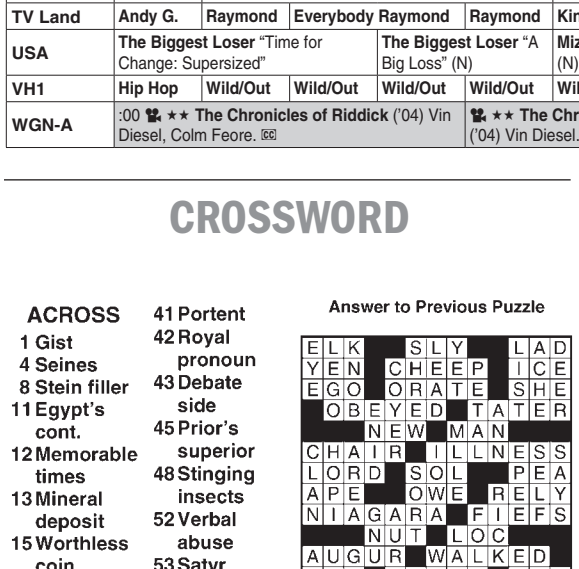
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Gist
4 Seines
8 Stein filler
11 Egypt's cont.
12 Memorable times
13 Mineral deposit
15 Worthless coin
16 Chopped down
17 Occupation
18 Late bloomer
20 Type of wave
21 Prompt
23 Exist
24 Calcutta nanny
27 Made up one's mind
31 Kahuna's spud
32 Henri's island
33 Noon, on a sundial
35 — tai
36 Make doilies
37 Mr. Carvey
38 Wireless pioneer
41 Portent
42 Royal pronoun
43 Debate side
45 Prior's superior
48 Stinging insects
52 Verbal abuse
53 Satyr
56 "Norma —"
57 Hatcher or Garr
58 Feed the kitty
59 Pedro's aunt
60 Hilo guitar
61 Changed color
62 Body part

DOWN
1 Space station org.
2 Strange sightings
3 Dry wine
4 First P.M. of India
5 Before, to bards
6 Shooting marble
7 Form 1040 info
8 In the pact
9 Burglar's "key"
10 Millay or Ferber
14 Moray
19 Mountain refrain
20 Prefix for pod
22 Newspaper staffer
23 Mild acid
24 PIN prompter
25 Sir's companion
26 Diva's tune
28 Gusto
29 Reason to cram
30 Eat out
34 Mr. McKellen
37 Lisbon lady
39 Beginner
40 Snipped
44 Had
45 Toward the stern
46 Cordon —
47 Fox's sound
49 Mlle. in Barcelona
50 Set of two
51 Bed of coal
53 Craze
54 "Have you — wool?"
55 Navajo foe

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	L	K			S	L	Y			L	A	D
Y	E	N		C	H	E	E	P		I	C	E
E	G	O		O	R	A	T	E		S	H	E
	O	B	E	Y	E	D		T	A	T	E	R
			N	E	W		M	A	N			
C	H	A	I	R		I	L	L	N	E	S	S
L	O	R	D		S	O	L			P	E	A
A	P	E			O	W	E		R	E	L	Y
N	I	A	G	A	R	A		F	I	E	F	S
			N	U	T		L	O	C			
A	U	G	U	R		W	A	L	K	E	D	
L	P	N		A	B	A	C	K		K	O	A
A	T	A		S	I	D	E	S		E	E	R
W	O	W			T	E	D			S	R	I



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JUMBLE

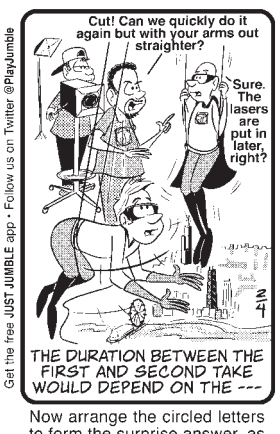
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MCAPH

NERDT

LOOIER

SNSITI


Cut! Can we quickly do it again but with your arms out straighter?
Sure. The lasers are put in later, right?
THE DURATION BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND TAKE WOULD DEPEND ON THE ---

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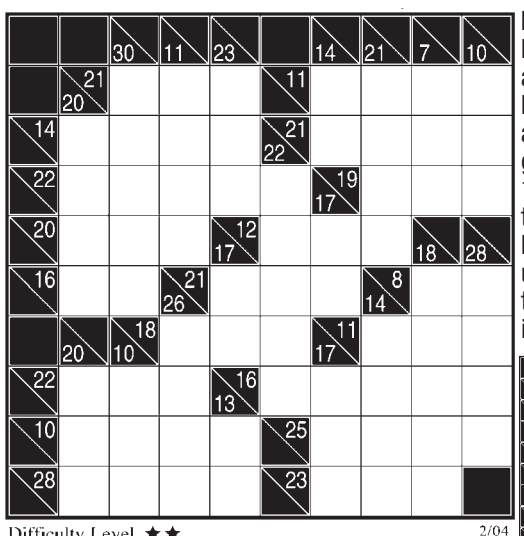
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○-○○○○○○" ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

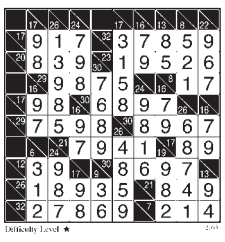
Yesterday's Jumbles: JUMBO DOUSE PRETTY PENCIL
Answer: The guy who wasn't tech-savvy got so frustrated with his computer that he — BOOTED IT UP

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★ 2/04

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



Difficulty Level ★ 2/04

BRIDGE

First today, apologies to the typesetters, who dislike seven-card suits in the East hand, and here we have a 10-bagger! But I was shown this deal by my wife, who sat South.

What do you think of the auction?

The East hand, despite its winners, is not a two-club opening. Only 12 high-card points are too few. That call should also assure partner that the opponents cannot make a game contract unless they have a good fit and voids. This hand has scant defense.

South's overcall in such a weak suit was debatable. But it was hard to pass a hand with 14 points. (My wife could not double to show both majors.)

North, wondering how many points were in the deck, used Roman Key Card Blackwood. Hearts losers? What heart losers?

Surely East should have shown his suit at this point. Why not tell partner? Also, maybe the opponents had not discussed counteracting intervention over Blackwood.

South, ignoring the double, gave her normal answer to RKCB. (A sensible agreement is ROPI: Redouble with zero key cards, pass with one key card, bid five clubs with two, and so on. Partner can then ask for the trump queen and side-suit kings if he wishes.)

North jumped to six spades, hoping for the best in hearts.

West believed that he had to double, following his partner's opening bid. After he led a club, my wife won with dummy's ace, cashed the spade ace, played a heart to her queen and cashed the heart ace. When the king dropped, she claimed an overtrick for plus 1310.

North 02-04-20
♠ A K Q 10 7 4 2
♥ J 7 6 5
♦ —
♣ A 6

West
♠ 5
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3

East
♠ —
♥ K 10
♦ A K J 10 8 7 6 5 4 2
♣ J

South
♠ J 9 8 6 3
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ Q
♣ K Q 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			2♣
2♠	Pass	4NT	Dbl.
5♦	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	All Pass	

Opening lead: ♣ 10

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

8		9		2		4		1
	1		8	9		3		
3				6				8
	8	7		5	3	1		4
	5			1			8	
2		1	6	7		5	9	
7				3				9
		2		4	6		3	
5		4		8		7		6

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	1	4	9	3	2	5	8	7
9	7	3	6	5	8	2	4	1
5	2	8	7	1	4	6	9	3
1	8	7	3	6	5	4	2	9
3	4	9	2	8	7	1	6	5
2	5	6	1	4	9	7	3	8
8	3	5	4	2	1	9	7	6
4	9	1	8	7	6	3	5	2
7	6	2	5	9	3	8	1	4

Arek Rataj / AP

A military officer wearing a protective suit gives instructions to evacuees from Wuhan, China, as they travel to a hospital after their arrival at a military base in Wroclaw, Poland on Sunday. China sent medical workers and equipment Monday to its just-completed, 1,000-bed hospital for treating victims of a new virus that has caused 362 deaths and more than 17,300 infections at home and abroad.

Italians, Poles quarantined after coming back from China

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN — Scores of Italians and Poles were under quarantine Monday after being repatriated from the Chinese city of Wuhan, where a fast-spreading virus has emerged. Meanwhile in Croatia, tourists from Taiwan were reportedly wearing "not from China" signs due to discrimination against Asian tourists.

European nations have been running flights to bring back citizens living and working in the central Chinese city, while working to contain the virus at home.

An Italian military aircraft carrying the Italians landed Monday morning at a military airport near Rome, and from there all 56 people, including six children, were transferred to a military base. They will remain in quarantine there for 14 days. Italian media reported they were all in good health.

If any show symptoms, they will be moved to the Lazzaro Spallanzani National Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome, where two Chinese tourists with confirmed cases of the virus are being treated.

Another Italian citizen, a 17-year-old student who had a fever, was not permitted on board the evacuation flight. Test results were expected Tuesday, but at the moment the patient's condition "was not worrying," Stefano Verrecchia, head of Italy's crisis unit, told SkyTG 24.

Over 17,000 people have been infected with the virus in China and 361 have died. Another person died in the Philippines and 20 other nations have reported cases.

Europe has 25 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus so far: Germany has 10; France six; Russia, Italy and the U.K have two each and Finland, Sweden and Spain have one each.

A French-chartered airliner carried 300 evacuees back from China, including citizens of France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and some African nations.

French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said 36 people exhibited potential symptoms of the virus. Sixteen of them were sent home to other European countries, while the other 20 stayed in France and are being tested.

In Poland, a hospital official said all 30 Poles under quarantine show no signs of infection. The group, also including children, was evacuated from Wuhan and, via France, arrived Sunday night at a military hospital in Wroclaw. The head of the Polish hospital, Wojciech Tanski, said Monday that following examination they were all admitted into quarantine for two weeks.

In Croatia, tourists from Taiwan were seen with signs reading "not from China" because they said that people fearful of the virus are shunning Asian visitors. They told local media they began wearing the signs after people in Croatia had "run away" from them. The photos were taken in the streets of Sibenik, a popular tourist destination on Croatia's Adriatic coast.

In neighboring Montenegro, some 800 workers from China who have been constructing a main highway to link the south and east of the tiny Balkan state have been told not to return to Montenegro after celebrating the Chinese New Year because of the virus. Also, all Montenegrin operators have indefinitely canceled tourist tours from China.

The Czech Republic, meanwhile, banned all flights to and from China in an effort to prevent the virus from spreading. About 620,000 Chinese tourists visited the Czech Republic last year, with the capital of Prague a popular destination.

Germany's Lufthansa said it is extending the suspension of its flights to Beijing and Shanghai until Feb. 28 "after thoroughly evaluating all currently available information" on the virus.

The suspension, which also applies to Lufthansa subsidiaries Austrian Airlines and Swiss, originally was imposed through Feb. 9. Lufthansa said it won't now serve its other Chinese destinations, Nanjing, Shenyang and Qingdao, until the end of its winter timetable on March 28. Flights to and from Hong Kong will continue as planned.

Turkey also decided to suspend all flights from China beginning Wednesday until the end of the month, according to its health minister.

Minister Fahrettin Koca also said that travelers arriving from Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and Malaysia will be screened with thermal cameras upon arrival in Turkey.

None of the 61 people who were evacuated from Hubei province over the weekend has tested positive, Koca said.

On ethnically divided Cyprus, the rival Greek and Turkish speaking communities agreed to work together to help contain any outbreak should the virus find its way to the island nation.

Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Mustafa Akinci, leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriots, were briefed by a committee of medical experts from both communities. The committee agreed to keep both sides constantly updated.

Anastasiades said cooperation was essential to providing "maximum possible protection to the Cypriot people, Greek and Turkish Cypriots."

The Vatican, meanwhile, has sent "some hundreds of thousands" of masks aimed to help limit the spread of virus to the Chinese provinces of Hubei, Zhejiang and Fujian, the Vatican press office said Monday.

Iran may block UN inspectors if it faces a 'new situation'

ML--Iran-Nuclear (AP) — Iran's president said Monday that Tehran might reconsider providing U.N. inspectors with access to Iran's nuclear facilities if the country were confronted with "a new situation," the official IRNA news agency reported.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks came during a meeting with Josep Borrell, the European Union's new foreign affairs chief, who was on his first visit to Iran since taking office.

The visit is seen as the latest move by the EU to save Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. The agreement hangs on a single thread, one that permits international inspection of its atomic sites, and is already threatened.

"The trend of inspections that has been carried out until today will continue, unless we face a new situation," Rouhani was quoted by IRNA as saying. He did not elaborate.

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have steadily risen since President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear agreement and re-imposed sanctions on Iran in 2018. Tehran has responded by gradually rolling back its commitment to the deal in hopes of pressuring Europe into finding a way for Tehran to sell its crude oil abroad despite the American sanctions.

Ebrahim Noroozi / AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, left, welcomes European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, for their meeting in Tehran, Iran on Monday.

An uneasy quiet has settled over the Middle East in the month since a U.S. drone strike killed the top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani. Iran responded with a flurry of ballistic missiles at U.S. forces in Iraq, and announced it would no longer respect limits set on how many centrifuges it can use to enrich uranium.

Rouhani said Iran is ready for engagement with Europe. "Whenever the other party fully implements its commitments, Iran will return to its commitments," Rouhani said.

In January, Britain, France and Germany triggered the accord's dispute mechanism to force Iran into discussions, starting the clock on a process that could result in the "snapback" of U.N. and EU sanctions on Iran.

Speaking with reporters in English, Borrell said "We are in agreement not to go directly to a strict time limit that would oblige to go to the (U.N.) security council."

"I asked to the Iranian authorities and I think they agree we have to continue with the survey of the International Atomic Energy Agency," said Borrell.

"We expect some positive steps on the nuclear side, and Iranians expect some positive steps in the economic side," he said, adding that those issues would be addressed in the coming weeks.

Israeli PM meets Sudan's leader, aims for 'normalization'

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA and JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with the leader of Sudan on Monday and said they began talks on normalization, a major diplomatic breakthrough with an Arab and African state two days after the Arab League rejected a U.S. Mideast initiative that heavily favors Israel.

Sudan is a longtime member of the Arab League and joined other members in rejecting President Donald Trump's plan. But Sudan is also desperate to lift sanctions linked to its listing by the U.S. as a state sponsor of terror – a key step toward ending its isolation and rebuilding its economy after the popular uprising that toppled longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir last year.

For Israel, the meeting marks a major step toward improving ties with both Arab and African countries, and further burnishes Netanyahu's diplomatic credentials as he seeks re-election in March under a cloud of corruption charges.

In a sign of the sensitivities involved, the meeting with Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of Sudan's transitional government, was kept secret, with Netanyahu only announcing it after the fact.

"We agreed to begin cooperation that will lead to normalization of relations between the two countries," Netanyahu tweeted. "History!"

Netanyahu's office said the meeting came at the invitation of Uganda. It said Netanyahu "believes that Sudan is moving in a new and positive direction, and the prime minister expressed his views to the U.S. Secretary of State" – an apparent reference to removal from the terror list.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo invited Burhan to visit the United States in a phone call on Sunday. The date of the visit has not yet been set.

A senior Sudanese military official said the meeting was orchestrated by the United Arab Emirates and aimed at helping to remove the terror listing, which dates back to the 1990s, when Sudan briefly hosted Osama bin Laden and other wanted militants.

Under al-Bashir, Sudan was also believed to have served as a pipeline for Iran to supply weapons to Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip. Israel was believed to have been behind airstrikes in Sudan that destroyed a convoy in 2009 and a weapons factory in 2012.

The official, who was not authorized to brief media and so spoke on condition of anonymity, said Burhan agreed to meet Netanyahu because officials thought it would help "accelerate" the process of being removed from the terror list. He said only a "small circle" of top officials in Sudan, as well as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, knew about the meeting.

Sudan hosted the Arab League summit after the 1967 war that became famous for establishing the "three no's": No to peace with Israel, no to recognition of Israel and no to negotiations with Israel.

That consensus broke down when Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, and has further eroded in recent years as Israel has improved ties with Gulf Arab nations that share its concerns about Iran. Establishing diplomatic ties with Sudan would be seen in Israel as a major achievement. Only two Arab states, Egypt and Jordan, have made peace with Israel.

Muslim nations reject Trump's Mideast plan in Saudi meeting

By AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Days after Gulf Arab states expressed their support for President Donald Trump's efforts at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, representatives from these same countries and other Muslim nations gathered in Saudi Arabia and rejected the White House's plan as "biased."

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said the kingdom backs efforts that push for negotiations, but said such initiatives must reach a fair resolution that ensures the rights of the Palestinian people "through the creation of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital."

He spoke at a gathering in the Saudi city of Jiddah for the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which denounced Trump's plan.

The formal rebuke by the OIC comes just days after Arab League nations unanimously rejected the White House's proposals at a meeting in Cairo, where Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas threatened to cut security ties with Israel and referred to White House adviser Jared Kushner, the chief architect of the plan, as simply Trump's son-in-law.

The White House plan heavily favors Israel and ignores many of the Palestinians' core demands by keeping some 750,000 Jewish settlers in place, recognizing Israel's sovereignty of the strategic Jordan Valley, and asserting Jerusalem as the "undivided capital" of Israel.

The OIC slammed "the biased approach" of the White House, saying the plan adopts the Israeli narrative and endorses the annexation of vast areas of occupied Palestinian land under the pretext of security for Israel. The group said the U.S. proposal "lacks the minimum requirements of justice and destroys the foundations of peace."

The OIC's statement stressed that east Jerusalem as "the eternal capital" of a future Palestinian state and said it remains the cornerstone issue of Muslims around the world. The OIC was formed 50 years ago in response to an extremist arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem, one of Islam's most sacred sites.

The land on which Al-Aqsa Mosque stands is also sacred to Jews, who pray nearby at the Western Wall, a remnant of the compound where biblical Jewish temples once stood. Evangelical Christians support the rebuilding of a Jewish temple on that land.

While the public rebukes by the 22-nation Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation reflect public sentiment among Arabs and Muslims, neither group called for concrete actions to be taken by its member states.

The OIC only urged support for Palestinian diplomatic efforts and for member states to work with the U.N. Security Council to reject proposals that contradict international law.

The plan was unveiled by Trump last week at a White House ceremony with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In the audience were Christian Zionist leaders, staunch pro-Israel supporters and ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

Google 4Q revenue grew, but not enough for Wall Street

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Richard Drew / AP

The logo for Alphabet appears on a screen at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York in 2014. Google parent company Alphabet posted mixed fourth-quarter results on Monday falling short on Wall Street's expectations for revenue but beating on profit.

SAN FRANCISCO — Google's revenue grew, but Wall Street wanted more.

Parent company Alphabet's stock fell nearly 5 percent after financial results came out Monday, even as profits beat expectations for the last three months of the year.

Alphabet said Monday it earned $10.7 billion, or $15.35 per share, up 19 percent from $8.9 billion, or $12.77 per share, a year earlier. That's more than the $12.49 a share analysts polled by FactSet were expecting.

Net revenue, after subtracting advertising costs, was $37.6 billion, up 18 percent from $31.8 billion a year earlier. But analysts were looking for $38.4 billion.

This was the second rocky quarter in a row for the online search leader. Its third quarter brought higher-than-expected revenue but a profit shortfall due to higher spending on new hires, data centers and other expenses.

While Google is still the clear leader in the digital advertising market, it is seeing growing competition from the likes of Facebook and Amazon.

Google – and with it, Alphabet – makes the majority of its money from selling targeted advertising across the web, apps and Google products including its search engine and video streaming site YouTube. Investors are now also closely watching the growth of Google's cloud business and its aspirations in the health care industry. Google agreed to buy the fitness tracker company Fitbit in November.

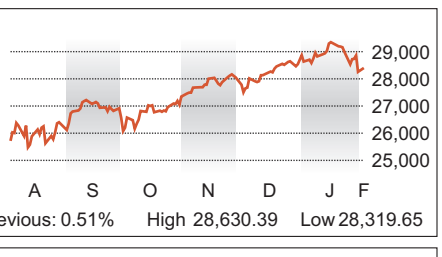
Alphabet disclosed revenue for YouTube and its cloud business for the first time, something analysts have been seeking for years. It said YouTube's advertising revenue was $4.72 billion, up 31 percent from $3.61 billion a year earlier. Google Cloud revenue grew 53 percent to $2.61 billion from $1.71 billion a year earlier.

This was Alphabet's first earnings report with Sundar Pichai at the company's helm, following the depature of co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, the co-founders of Google, in December. Pichai was head of Google before.

Shares of Alphabet fell $68.68, or 4.6 percent, to $1,413.92 in after-hours trading, after increasing 3.5 percent during the regular session.

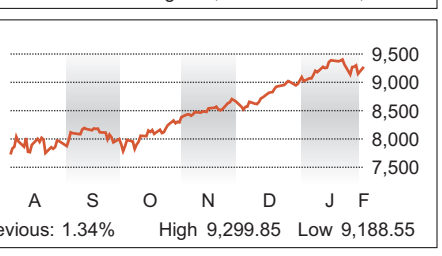
MARKETS

Feb. 3, 2020
Dow Jones industrials
143.78
28,399.81



Pct. change from previous: 0.51% High 28,630.39 Low 28,319.65

Feb. 3, 2020
Nasdaq composite
122.47
9,273.40



Pct. change from previous: 1.34% High 9,299.85 Low 9,188.55

Amer Elec Power AEP
$104.22 ... ...%
▲ 4-wk. +11.3% ▲ YTD +10.3%

Whirlpool WHR
$147.15 +.98 +.7%
▼ 4-wk. -.1% ▼ YTD -.3%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	29.46	39.70	36.96	-.66	-1.8	▼	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	79.02	104.43	104.22	...	...	▬	▲	▲
Apple Inc	AAPL	167.28	327.85	308.66	-.85	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	871.33	1274.41	1050.45	-7.51	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
BP PLC	BP	35.73	45.38	35.23	-.90	-2.5	▼	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	51.91	68.98	68.48	-.03	...	▬	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	44.42	59.08	58.58	+.18	+0.3	▲	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	36.27	47.74	42.66	-.53	-1.2	▼	▼	▼
Deere	DE	132.68	180.48	158.29	-.29	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
Disney	DIS	107.32	153.41	141.32	+3.01	+2.2	▲	▼	▼
DollarTree	DLTR	85.37	119.71	87.51	+.44	+0.5	▲	▼	▼
ExxonMbl	XOM	61.86	83.49	60.73	-1.39	-2.2	▼	▼	▼
FifthThird	FITB	24.17	31.64	28.98	+.53	+1.9	▲	▼	▼
1stSource	SRCE	41.88	53.42	47.35	+.45	+1.0	▲	▼	▼
FordM	F	8.29	10.56	8.98	+.16	+1.8	▲	▼	▼
GenElec	GE	7.65	13.00	12.26	-.19	-1.5	▼	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	179.52	239.31	231.54	+3.44	+1.5	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	15.21	19.48	17.09	+.17	+1.0	▲	▼	▼
HuntBncsh	HBAN	12.15	15.63	13.72	+.15	+1.1	▲	▼	▼
IDEX	IEX	139.43	176.70	165.06	+1.21	+0.7	▲	▼	▼
IBM	IBM	126.85	152.95	146.27	+2.54	+1.8	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	98.09	141.10	133.37	+1.01	+0.8	▲	▼	▼
JohnJn	JNJ	126.10	151.19	150.17	+1.30	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	91.60	123.14	117.18	+.94	+0.8	▲	▼	▼
McDnlds	MCD	173.41	221.93	215.18	+1.21	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	102.77	174.05	174.38	+4.15	+2.4	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	33.80	49.88	40.33	+1.68	+4.3	▲	▼	▼
Penney	JCP	0.53	1.92	.71	-.04	-5.2	▼	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	40.68	60.48	58.51	+1.47	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	33.97	44.56	37.51	+.27	+0.7	▲	▼	▼
ProctGam	PG	97.43	127.00	125.11	+.49	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	76.13	96.40	95.84	+.79	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
Steelcse	SCS	14.45	23.02	18.75	+.14	+0.8	▲	▼	▼
Stryker	SYK	174.84	223.45	211.64	+.94	+0.4	▲	▼	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	35.96	47.71	43.08	+.80	+1.9	▲	▼	▼
Target	TGT	69.07	130.24	112.51	+1.77	+1.6	▲	▼	▼
TractSupp	TSCO	86.00	114.25	94.41	+1.46	+1.6	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	92.65	125.31	102.03	-1.49	-1.4	▼	▼	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	53.86	62.22	58.05	-1.39	-2.3	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	73.74	101.37	100.89	+1.00	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
WalMart	WMT	95.64	125.38	114.27	-.22	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
WalgBoots	WBA	49.03	74.95	50.95	+.10	+0.2	▲	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	16.25	22.84	21.93	+.26	+1.2	▲	▼	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	114.00	163.64	147.15	+.98	+0.7	▲	▼	▼
Worthgtn	WOR	33.18	44.69	37.74	+.96	+2.6	▲	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	45.73	96.20	90.19	+1.27	+1.4	▲	▲	▲

Stocks rise on Wall Street, but virus worries remain

By STAN CHOE
Associated Press

STR / AP

A security officer wearing a face mask walks in front of the Shanghai Stock Exchange building in Shanghai on Monday.

NEW YORK — Stocks rose in much of the world Monday and recovered some of their losses from earlier weeks, but markets are still far from giving the all-clear on the virus that has spread to more than 20 countries and infected more than 17,000 people.

Chinese stocks tumbled nearly 8 percent after investors there got a chance to catch up to losses that already swept through other markets. Monday was the first day of trading in more than a week in Shanghai, and the losses would likely have been bigger if not for moves by Chinese authorities, including the pumping of $173 billion into the financial system.

In the United States, meanwhile, a warning signal of recession in the bond market continued to flash red. The price of crude oil also kept sliding on worries that a global economy weakened by the virus will burn less fuel, and prices fell for copper and other building blocks of the economy.

The S&P 500 rose 23.40 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,248.92 and clawed back some of its losses following its first back-to-back weekly drops of 1 percent since August. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 143.78, or 0.5 percent, to 28,399.81, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 122.47, or 1.3 percent, to 9,273.40. Each of the three indexes remains 1.4 percent to 3.2 percent below their records set last month.

All the unsettled trading is a sharp departure from 2019, which saw stocks and bonds make powerful moves higher, and it's the result of growing uncertainty. Nobody knows how much the virus will ultimately hurt economies and corporate profits, let alone human lives, around the world. Past disease outbreaks have seen stocks hit bottom when the number of new cases peaked.

This new virus that first spread from China has already shut factories there, halted some global air traffic and caused economists to cut their 2020 growth forecasts for China, the world's second-largest economy.

The most immediate threat seems to be for travel and tourism companies. But with supply chains running around the world and China providing more revenue to S&P 500 companies than any country besides the United States, CEOs from a wide range of industries have said they expect some kind of hit to their businesses.

The fears have also struck just as investors believed economic growth would re-accelerate around the world, thanks in large part to interest-rate cuts and bold actions by the Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world. A report on Monday said U.S. manufacturing returned to growth in January for the first time in six months, but many investors discounted it because it doesn't fully reflect all the virus concerns.

"Think about what global central bankers are thinking about now," said Emily Roland, co-chief investment strategist at John Hancock Investment Management. She imagined them saying: "Are you kidding me? We pumped so much liquidity into the economy last year, and now the yield curve is inverting again?"

The yield curve is a tool inside the bond market which investors see as a rather reliable predictor of recessions, though it doesn't have a perfect track record. It triggers when it becomes "inverted," or when short-term Treasurys offer higher yields than longer-term Treasurys.

On Monday, the three-month yield was at 1.56 percent, above the 1.52 percent yield of the 10-year, which itself rose from 1.51 percent late Friday.

"Sentiment builds on sentiment, and there's so much uncertainty right now," Roland said. "We're not ready to call the all-clear until we see a sustained re-acceleration not only in earnings estimates but also in the economic data."

In the U.S. stock market, gains were relatively widespread on Monday with close to two stocks rising for every one falling. Tesla surged 19.9 percent for its biggest gain since 2013, bringing its one-year return to nearly 150 percent, following optimistic research reports by analysts.

Nike jumped 3.1 percent to help drive Dow Jones Industrial Average higher as investors try to handicap how much its earnings will be hurt by the virus. Like other companies that do lots of business with China, it had dropped sharply in earlier weeks. Nearly 18 percent of its revenue last quarter came from China.

Toy companies that ship summer products like pool toys need to have factories in China ramp up production by March 1, according to Steve Pasierb, CEO of the Toy Industry Association. He said he hears nervousness from executives across the industry about possible delays in production.

"There's complete uncertainty," he said. "This could be huge if it goes on for months."

Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun, said that he's on "eggshells" right now, hoping that the factories in China will resume production by early April, which he considers the best-case scenario.

European stock markets were higher on Monday. France's CAC 40 rose 0.5 percent, Germany's DAX returned 0.5 percent and the FTSE 100 in London was up 0.6 percent.

The 7.7 percent loss for stocks in Shanghai was the headliner in Asia, but other markets were mixed. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong rose 0.2 percent, the Nikkei 225 in Japan lost 1 percent and the Kospi in South Korea was virtually flat.

Benchmark U.S. crude tumbled another $1.45, or 2.8 percent, to settle at $50.11 per barrel on worries about demand. It had been above $63 toward the start of the year, before the virus worries exploded. Brent crude, the international standard, fell $2.17, or 3.8 percent, to settle at $54.45 per barrel.

In other commodities trading, wholesale gasoline fell 3 cents to $1.47 per gallon. Heating oil declined 5 cents to $1.58 per gallon. Natural gas fell 2 cents to $1.82 per 1,000 cubic feet. Gold fell $5.70 to $1,577.20 per ounce, silver fell 33 cents to $17.64 per ounce and copper fell 1 cent to $2.51 per pound.

The dollar rose to 108.67 Japanese yen from 108.37 yen on Friday. The euro weakened to $1.1063 from $1.1089.

Mall owners among group bidding $81M for Forever 21

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
Associated Press

Mark Lennihan / AP

People walk in front of a Forever 21 clothing store in New York in 2019.

A consortium of buyers, including mall owners Simon Property Group and Brookfield Property Partners, is bidding $81 million for Forever 21, the ubiquitous mall staple that filed for bankruptcy protection in September.

Simon and Brookfield are Forever 21's biggest landlords. The other bidder is Authentic Brands Group, which has acquired the licensing rights to other troubled retailers like Barneys New York.

In 2016, Simon and mall owner General Growth Properties, which is now owned by Brookfield Property Partners, teamed up to save struggling teen apparel retailer Aeropostale, which was in bankruptcy. Simon's Chairman and CEO David Simon told investors during an earnings call last year that Simon was looking at other potential bankrupt retailers.

Mark Hunter, managing director leading CBRE's mall management and leasing business in the Americas, says that Simon and others are trying to keep occupancy high at their malls. They don't want to trigger a clause that lets other retailers at the shopping center ask for a lower rent or eventually get out of a lease. Still, Simon and others remain "strategic" regarding which retailer to buy.

YouTube: No 'deepfakes' or 'birther' videos in election

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Better late than never, YouTube is making clear there will be no "birtherism" on its platform during this year's U.S. presidential election. Nevermind that the conspiracy theory around former President Barack Obama's citizenship emerged in 2008 and has not been a widespread issue since he last ran for president in 2012.

The Google-owned video service is also reiterating that it won't allow election-related "deepfake" videos and anything that aims to mislead viewers about voting procedures and how to participate in the 2020 census.

Neither of these policies is new either, but YouTube clarified its rules ahead of the Iowa caucuses Monday in an apparent attempt to ensure that it is working to prevent the spread of election-related misinformation on its service. Google, Facebook, Twitter and other technology platforms are under intense pressure to prevent interference in the 2020 elections after they were manipulated in 2016 by Russia-connected actors.

The company is mostly reiterating guidelines that it has been putting in place since the last presidential election in 2016.

Its ban on technically manipulated videos of political figures was made apparent last year when YouTube became the first major platform to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. But the announcement Monday further clarifies that it will take down any election-related videos that are technically altered to mislead people in a way that goes beyond simply taking clips of speech out of context. The company also said it would remove doctored videos that could cause "serious risk of egregious harm" – such as to make it appear that a government official is dead.

Facebook, which last year had resisted early calls to yank the Pelosi video, said in January that it was banning "deepfake" videos, the false but realistic clips created with artificial intelligence and sophisticated tools. Such videos are still fairly rare compared to simpler "cheap fake" manipulations such as were used in the video that altered Pelosi's speech to make it seem like she was slurring her words.

Google also said Monday that it will remove any videos that advance false claims about whether political candidates and elected officials are eligible to serve in office. That had been policy before, but wasn't made explicit.

The company's announcement comes about nine years after celebrity businessman Donald Trump began to get notice for claiming that Barack Obama, the nation's first African American president, was not born in the United States.

Trump repeatedly voiced citizenship doubts even after Obama produced his long-form birth certificate. Trump only fully backed off from the idea in the final stages of his 2016 presidential campaign.

YouTube said it will also crack down on any attempts to artificially increase the number of views, likes and comments on videos. It changed its systems for recommending what videos users watch last year in a push to curb harmful misinformation. Twitter and Pinterest also last week outlined their efforts to reduce election misinformation on their platforms.

The Herald-Palladium

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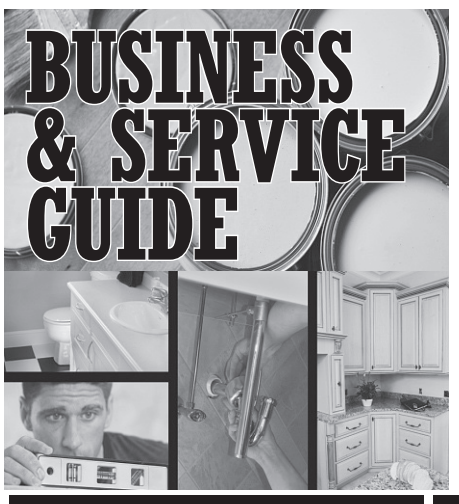

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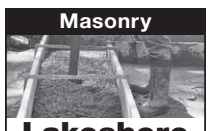

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Board Candidate Opening

Benton Harbor Area Schools has an opening for the School Board and are looking for candidates.

If you are interested, please send a letter to the BHAS Central Administration.

Please be sure the letter includes:

Your Name, Address and Phone Number

Your reason for your interest in this position

A short biography of yourself

We will be accepting letters through February 21, 2020. You can mail or drop off the letter to:
BHAS Central Administration
Attn: Susan West
870 Colfax .
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Or you can send me this information via email at susan.west@bhas.org

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South Haven, MI. The City of South Haven is seeking a Community Development Director to work with the City's economic development team to achieve business retention, expansion, and attraction goals. This position requires knowledge normally acquired through the completion of a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Planning, Economics, Marketing or a related field. CEcD designation preferable. Three years' experience in economic development, project management, or related experience preferred. To see the full job description and to apply, visit the Human Resources page at *www.southhaven.com.* Deadline for application is February 28, 2020. EOE

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EOE

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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Learn, improve and travel this year. The more contact you have with people from different backgrounds, the easier it will be to come up with new ideas. Chasing a dream will keep you motivated to do and take on more. You'll have increased discipline to help you achieve your goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A change at home will encourage you to start a creative project. If you turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime, it will boost your confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Emotional issues will surface if you live in the past. Anger is a waste of time. Let go of what you have no control over and put your energy into something positive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Spend time doing something you enjoy with a person who brings out the best in you. Distance yourself from people who bring you down. Choose love over discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your strong sense of value and need to get your money's worth will surface if someone you share expenses with has been excessive. If someone sugarcoats a situation, look for flaws or a mistake.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't let criticism get to you. Focus on being and doing your best instead of trying to keep up with others. Your only competition is you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't reveal secret information or overreact. Once you gather all the information, you'll realize that you are in a good position with plenty of opportunities heading your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you are too busy paying attention to others, you will upset someone you should be appreciating more. Be selective when it comes to romantic partners, friends and colleagues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A career change may not end up being what you expect. Do not make decisions regarding your position until you have had a chance to look over a contract.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Traveling and getting together with peers or relatives will confirm that you should not take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Prepare to say no to demanding people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Take on only what's important to you, and spend time with people who are beneficial to you. Plan your actions carefully and make the most of your time. Romance is on the rise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Channel your energy into something that counts. You will attract the attention of someone who is deceptive. Be careful not to rely on anyone but yourself when it comes to achieving your goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you take stock of the past and the present, you will know what you have to do to reach your goal. Don't be afraid to try something different.

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EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

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